Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-167
Monday
29 August 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-167 *29 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian-Israeli Talks Resume at Dead Sea Hotel

JN2808090594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Israeli talks resumed at the Dead Sea Hotel this morning on the level of technical committees to continue discussing agenda topics that were discussed at length during the bilateral negotiations held by the two sides on 15 August on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea.

These committees will focus their discussions on several issues, particularly water and borders, which Jordan considers the most important and prominent issues on the joint agenda that represent Jordan's sovereign rights that cannot be relinquished.

Israel's Rubinstein on 'Progress'

TA2808202294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The first day of talks between the Jordanian-Israeli peace committee ended a short while ago in Jordan. Our correspondent to the talks Arye Gus reported a few minutes ago from the Dead Sea Hotel:

[Begin recording] [Gus] Israeli sources say progress was made at today's discussions at the Dead Sea Hotel on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea, but no specific agreements were reached. Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, shares this assessment:

[Rubinstein] We have no reason to be dissatisfied with the developments. Progress is clearly slower on the sensitive bilateral issues, but today we made progress in presenting Israel's positions on the border issues.

[Gus] Today's discussions were devoted to bilateral issues in the fields of security, water, borders, aviation, and other matters. Trilateral issues pertaining to the economic and commercial sphere were also discussed, with U.S. officials participating. The main topic was the master plan for the Jordan Rift Valley. Progress was made on police matters; however, no agreement on an aerial corridor was reached, despite the fact that King Husayn flew over Israel today on his way to Europe. Statements made by Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of the Jordanian delegation, indicate that Jordan remains adamant with regard to its claims on the two main issues. Amman is demanding the distribution of water sources, and, with regard to the border issue, Jordan is demanding that the maps from the time of the British Mandate serve as the basis for discussion. Al-Tarawinah asserted that the Jordanian Government possesses documents that substantiate its claims. [passage omitted]

Al-Tarawinah said: I do not wish to define what I consider moderate positions. I will only say that we adhere to Jordan's positions, which are based on documents and principles.

The Jordanians appeared impatient during today's discussions and even more so in the corridors. The talks will continue tomorrow with the participation of tourist agents and industrialists. Dates for the continuation of the talks next month in Jordan and Israel have already been set. [end recording]

Jordan's al-Tarawinah Comments

JN2808114194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] A new round of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli peace talks began at the Dead Sea Hotel this morning on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea.

The talks were held on the level of technical committees, while the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee held a meeting chaired by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian side to the talks, and Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation. The U.S. side was represented by a delegation and a representative of the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

Before the start of the talks, Dr. al-Tarawinah conferred with Rubinstein and discussed the work of various committees today and tomorrow.

An official source of the Jordanian delegation said the subjects of borders and water are very important priorities of Jordan in the negotiations, and represent Jordan's sovereign rights. The sources emphasized the importance of realizing substantial progress in these fields.

The Israeli side will present its views on the subject of borders between the two countries after the Jordanian delegation presents its views, supported by maps and documents.

In brief press statements before the start of the meeting, Rubinstein expressed optimism that substantial progress can be realized by the various committees, and said that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will proceed in the right direction. He said: We will implement the agreements that will be reached by the two sides.

After the meeting, Dr. al-Tarawinah said that during the general meeting, work was divided among five committees to discuss agenda topics for today and tomorrow. He said that the main subject for the tripartite committee is to focus on development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

He said: We are now discussing with the other parties the mechanism for this development and what is called the general plan for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and their terms of reference.

He added during the meeting, the Jordanian and Israeli sides will present two working papers on this subject, while the U.S. side will try to help reach an integrated plan that could form the basis for working out the general plan for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

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He said the tripartite committee meetings will discuss the permanent road between Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, adding that a special technical study will be made on the permanent crossing on the southern border area that has not yet been decided, adding that the current crossing point was considered to be temporary.

Further al-Tarawinah Remarks

JN2808143394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Jordan and Israel are today holding a new round of talks at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on Jordan's shore of the Dead Sea. During the two-day meetings, the Jordanian and Israeli diverse subcommittees will discuss issues ranging from water, land, and borders to environment, energy, drugs, and the anti-crime measures, trade economy, and crossing points. The talks are dealing with civil aviation, upon which the two sides are expected to reach an agreement since both discussed the issue and the aerial corridors during the last session held at the Moriah Plaza Hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead sea in mid-August.

Alongside the bilateral talks, a trilateral meeting of Jordanian, Israeli, and U.S. teams is being held. The Jordanian side is being headed by Chief Delegate Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah while the Israeli side is being led by Israeli Ambassador Elyaqim Rubinstein. The Americans are participating through a delegation and a representative of the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

The tripartite committee is dealing with the development of the Jordan Rift Valley in addition to a number of economic issues of concern to Jordanian and Israeli sides.

Jordan's Chief Delegate Dr. al-Tarawinah spoke to Radio Jordan's Lina abu-al-Sha'r and As'ad Abu-al-Layl this morning after the plenary session of the Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. delegations.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] We gave the American side a briefing of our last round of talks on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, 10 days ago, and the progress that we were able to make on different committees and subcomissions. We also organized our work for the coming two days, today and tomorrow; basically, the committees, or the subgroups for the trilateral discussions. We have one for the Jordan Rift Valley master plan, and, as you know, this master plan needs terms of reference and we have a paper to present, and the Israeli side has a paper to present. Hopefully, the American side will be able to help us in coming to the, or agreeing on, the terms of reference for the master plan. The master plan is a long-term, or a detailed plan that would have the concepts of the Rift Valley first and then the list of projects that could be implemented in the future.

We have another subgroup on tourism, trilateral. Also, looking at ways and means to improve and to encourage tourism to this region, a subgroup on economic matters, basically trade for the future; also, looking and putting some grounds on the cooperation in the field of trade and economic matters; also, we have a subgroup on drug interdiction. And then they will proceed, today and tomorrow. But on the other subcomissions of the bilaterals, also, they will proceed as scheduled; a subcommission on boundaries and territorial matters, security, water energy, and environment, and the other committees that we have to secure the smooth implementation of the Washington Declaration. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Urges UN Delay 'Long-Term' Iraqi Monitoring

NC2908115594 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 29 (AFP)—Iraq's Gulf Arab neighbors have asked the United Nations to delay the test period for long-term monitoring of Iraqi weapons programs until Baghdad formally recognises Kuwait, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY [MEES] said Monday.

The six nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman—conveyed their request to the current president of the UN Security Council, Russia's Yuliy Vorontsov.

"The call by the GCC states for postponing the start of the monitoring test until Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is firmly secured will no doubt be met with sympathy in Washington and London," said the Cyprus-based weekly review.

No start date has been announced yet for the test period.

MEES said even permanent members of the Security Council which generally adopted a softer line toward Iraq, such as France, Russia and China, had been "exhibiting impatience at Baghdad's continued procrastination on this issue."

If the GCC request was accepted it would greatly increase the pressure on Baghdad to recognise Kuwait, one of the key conditions for the lifting of sanctions, the review said.

A UN trade and oil embargo was imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion and annexation of Kuwait, and remained in place after a US-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of the oil-rich emirate in February 1991.

The other main condition for the lifting of sanctions is the dismantling of Iraq's weapons programs.

The UN special commission supervising the disarmament of Iraq said on Thursday a long-term monitoring system should be ready by September.

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Diplomats at the UN said Friday that Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz was expected in New York on September 10 to push again for an end to the embargo.

The UN Security Council is scheduled to debate the sanctions policy again on September 14-15.

A Kuwaiti foreign ministry official said Sunday the GCC states wanted Iraq to recognise not only Kuwait's sovereignty but also the new border between the two countries drawn by the United Nations.

The UN redrew the border after Iraqi troops were evicted from Kuwait. But Baghdad disputed the new border, which gave Kuwait an extra strip of land on average 600 metres (1,980 feet) wide.

Iraqi Draft Plan for Reconciliation Reported

JN2708162394 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Aug 94 pp 1, 26

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received from the Moroccan ambassador in Cairo a draft of an Iraqi initiative for reconciliation with other Arab states through Egyptian mediation, which would follow direct contacts between Iraq and Egypt.

The Iraqi initiative also included a request for Egyptian and Arab support of Iraq's efforts to lift the international sanctions imposed against it since its invasion of Kuwait. In return, Iraq offered in its initiative to recognize the current demarcation of borders with Kuwait as set by the UN demarcation committee and to settle the other disputes with Kuwait, whether those are related to borders or other issues, either through direct bilateral negotiations or within the framework of the Arab League or the United Nations, although Iraq, the initiative suggests, prefers solutions within the framework of the Arab League.

In its initiative, Baghdad says it is prepared to cooperate fully in finding a solution to the issue of the Arab prisoners and missing persons in Iraq. It also says Iraq is fully prepared to reach a "comprehensive settlement" with the UN Security Council to implement all council resolutions relating to Iraq and does not object to long-term monitoring of armament programs.

Informed sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD that the Iraqi initiative, which was conveyed via Morocco, is now being thoroughly studied by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian reply will be shaped up before the next meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council in Cairo next month.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry asked the Iraqi Government, through the Egyptian interests section in the Indian Embassy in Baghdad, for a comprehensive report on the circumstances of the explosion in Baghdad two days ago in which some Egyptians were either killed or wounded.

Arab League Head Rejects Cali for End of Boycott

NC2708082794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] London, 27 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that ending the direct Arab economic boycott of Israel is not possible at the current stage.

In a statement to the Arabic-language AL-HAYAH newspaper published in London today, 'Abd-al-Majid linked the end of the direct Arab boycott of Israel to the end of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The Arab League secretary general stressed that discussion of ending the boycott is linked to progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said that when this happens, we will then see what we will do about the boycott.

U.S. President Bill Clinton recently called on Arab and Islamic countries to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 23 Aug

NC2708123594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 23 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Leaders Praise Egypt's Islamic Role
2. International Islamic Conference in Alexandria Viewed
3. Upcoming Population Conference Viewed
4. Al-Azhar Imam Urges Adherence to Islam To Solve Problems
5. Disinheriting Women Violates Shari'ah
6. Shaykh al-Ghazali Urges Preservation of Arabic Language

MUSLIM LEADERS PRAISE EGYPT'S ISLAMIC ROLE

The newspaper publishes several reports and articles related to the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday. Writers and preachers discuss aspects of the prophet's life and urge Muslims to adhere to his teachings and ethics.

The paper reports on President Mubarak meeting with and honoring certain religious leaders on the occasion. In its leading, unattributed 150-word report on page 1, it cites those leaders as saying that "Egypt is the Mecca of the Islamic world, and it plays a leading role in serving Islam everywhere." They reportedly applauded Egypt's

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efforts to addressing the crises faced by the Islamic world and its "heroic stands" in upholding the causes of Muslim minorities in the world.

A related 900-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 3 says Mubarak's honoring of some Muslim ulema shows that Egypt cares about those who serve the message of Islam. The report names some of those who received prizes from the president and cites Dr. Edward Ghali al-Dhahabi, who is "the first Christian in history" to win a first-class science and arts medal for his works on Islamic issues, as saying that Christians in Egypt won more than their legitimate rights. "No minority in the world is happier than the Christian minority in Islamic Egypt," he says. He contends that President Mubarak's honoring of him is " a statement to the entire world that sectarian sedition is an unfounded, bizarre call" and "an attempt to create division among the unified nation of Egypt."

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA VIEWED

A 3,000-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi and Majdi Za'tar on pages 10 and 11 discusses the sixth conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, which was held in Alexandria between 15 and 19 August. The reporter cites the conferees as calling for more effective Islamic cooperation and for launching an Islamic media establishment to confront "cultural colonialism" and attempts to distort the true image of Islam. On the population conference that will be held in Egypt 5-13 September, the report says: "The conference pointed out that the ulema are not against convening the population conference in Cairo. But the conference provides a major opportunity for Egypt's ulema and legal scholars to explain how serious the suspect views contained in the document are. The ulema will refute this document in their discussions, but there is fear that some recommendations that contradict the Islamic shari'ah may be issued by the United Nations and attributed to the Egypt of al-Azhar."

The deputy prime minister of Afghanistan reportedly told the conference that his country is far removed from the accusation that it backs terrorism. He said the accusations reflect foreign attempts to destabilize his country. He urged the conference and the Islamic Conference Organization to make tremendous efforts to bring about a just peace in Afghanistan. Religious leaders from Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, and Chad reportedly urged the conference to assist the Muslim minorities in their countries.

The paper devotes all of page 20 to a 2,000-word report on the study that Dr. Edward Ghali al-Dhahabi presented to the conference. The study, entitled "Pluralism in the Muslim Society," maintains that Islam was a leader in respecting the rights of non-Muslim minorities. It says the first document in the history of Islam, written by Prophet Muhammad, gives non-Muslims in Islamic society the same rights as Muslims. The document treated all citizens equally and decided that it is the right of all nationalities under the rule of Islam to preserve their creed, traditions, and lifestyles. The study maintains that Islam does not differentiate between people on the basis of race, color, or faith, and it concludes that "Islam was the leader of all civilizations in respecting minorities and treating them well and equally. &ome western societies are doing a great injustice when they judge Islam through the practices of some Muslims. Justice dictates that the practices of Muslims be measured against the criteria of Islam; the contrary is not at all true."

In a 500-word article on pages 24 and 23 about the above conference, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf says the conference highlighted several important facts, notably that the Islamic nation, by virtue of its many resources and capabilities, is qualified to play an effective role in the world. He notes that the Islamic nation, despite this fact, is experiencing a crisis causing a sense of defeat for some Muslims, although others are still hopeful. He says the Islamic nation is not isolated in the world, and that dialogue with others is necessary. The editor also notes Egypt's Islamic role and urges Islamic solidarity to solve the nation's problems.

A 300-word article by 'Ali Faruq on page 19 expresses dissatisfaction with the conference recommendations: "We hoped the conference would come up with a program of action that all organizations would cooperate to implement. But the recommendations of the sixth conference did not add much to previous recommendations." The writer, however, notes some good discussions and comments in the conference, particularly the speech of Dr. Ahmad 'Ali, secretary general of the Mecca-based Islamic World League. The writer says the speech specified ways to confront the U.S-led new world order; namely, by spreading learning among the sons of the Muslim nation, educating youth about their religion, and always reminding Muslims that they belong to a moderate nation. The writer says that learning "is the key to genuine development, not the development of abortion and sexual promiscuity, as devised by the UN Population Fund."

UPCOMING POPULATION CONFERENCE VIEWED

A 400-word report on page 2 cites Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the republic, as telling a religious seminar on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday that the mufti office rejects everything that violates the Islamic shari'ah and its ethics. In an apparent reference to the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, Tantawi reportedly says: "Neither the United Nations nor anyone else can impose on us something against our shari'ah." He says Muslims should take the recommendations that conform to the shari'ah and reject others.

In his 200-word, front-page "Rightfully I Say" column, Samir Rajab, the newspaper's board chairman, says:

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"The problem of some religious ulema, whether in Egypt or abroad, is that they make hasty judgments. In doing so, they are like physicians, who, before listening to or examining their patients, prescribe medicine for them, and therefore automatically make mistakes." Rajab says Islam urges Muslims to use their minds, and, addressing the ulema, he says: "Do not be deceived by appearances. You are supposedly not like that. Scrutinize, study, and be sure before you pass judgments."

A related 200-word article by Ibrahim Nasr on page 23 says there is no use opposing the convening of the ICPD now that the date of its opening has drawn close. "In a few days," the writer says, "Cairo will witness a great event that will greatly help activate tourism and give a true picture of the security situation in Egypt, irrespective of the conference's positive or negative sides." The writer says those who oppose the conference document should "calmly" explain Islam's position on such issues as abortion and sexual freedom. "There is no longer any place for fear of the conference's recommendations now that President Mubarak has personally said more than once that Egypt is not committed to any recommendation that violates our religion or clashes with our tolerant shari'ah."

AL-AZHAR IMAM URGES ADHERENCE TO ISLAM TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

In an approximately 1,200 word article on page 7, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, grand al-Azhar imam, notes the political, social, and economic weaknesses of the Islamic nation as a result of a departure from Islam and its teachings. He says that before the colonialists left the Muslim world, they planted an alternative—having local people spread foreign cultures and distract Muslims from their faith and shari'ah. He says the colonialists created political differences and sedition among the Muslim nation, turning people against each other. Socially, the Muslim world is suffering from the disintegration of the family and a lack of cooperation, and in the economic field, imported theories were adopted in most Islamic countries. For these problems to be solved, the al-Azhar imam says, Muslims must return to their religion and seek guidance from the Koran and the Sunnah.

DISINHERITING WOMEN VIOLATES SHARI'AH

A 2,000-word report by Jamal Salim and Mamduh al-'Ashri on pages 16 and 17 discusses the "serious phenomenon" of disinheriting females in some families in Egyptian society. The reporters consult some experts and religious people, who maintain that this is against the Islamic shari'ah, which preserves women's right to inheritance. They stress that the practice is a major sin that displeases God and creates social problems.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI URGES PRESERVATION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE

A 400-word article by Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali urges Muslims and concerned bodies to preserve the Arabic language, the language of the Koran. He says "the brokers of the cultural invasion" are redoubling their efforts to annihilate the Arabic language. If the Arabic language is defeated, he says, the Koran itself will be lost. Shaykh al-Ghazali concludes: "The death of our language means both our spiritual and physical destruction."

Palestinian Affairs

West Bank Early Empowerment Agreement Implemented

PNA Ratifies Agreement

TA2708150694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] In its weekly session in Gaza today the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] ratified the early empowerment agreement for the West Bank, and authorized Nabil Sha'th to sign the agreement on its behalf at the Erez checkpoint on 29 August. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that during the meeting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat protested remarks attributed to Brigadier General Doron Almog, to the effect that if there is no alternative the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will reenter the Gaza Strip. According to 'Arafat these remarks harm Palestinian sovereignty. The PNA also discussed the results of 'Arafat's visit to Switzerland, Tunisia, and Egypt, as well as the visit of the Palestinian delegation in Jordan. Most of these visits dealt with economic issues.

Jericho Council Assumes Office

JN2808180494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Jericho Provisional Municipal Council this morning officially assumed its responsibilities at the Jericho Municipality building. The ceremony was attended by Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. Several speeches were delivered during the ceremony. [passage omitted]

Samir Jawhar, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Jericho, said the Islamic Movement's participation in this council is within the framework of the service nature of the council and does not reflect any political stand by the movement. Jawhar said this participation does not mean any change in the Hamas stand, which totally rejects the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements.

Jawhar said participation in the Jericho Municipal Council and other service bodies is a national duty dictated by public interest.

PNA Assumes Education Role

JN2808175694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The official in charge of the Education Ministry in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] this

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morning assumed the responsibilities of the education sector in Hebron and Bethlehem areas in implementation of the agreement that was reached between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in Cairo last Wednesday [24 August]. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Welcomes Hamas Dialogue Offer

JN2608174994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President 'Arafat today welcomed the readiness of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to open a dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. President 'Arafat said the PLO does not want any confrontation with the Hamas movement, but rather seeks to reach an understanding on the future of relations and mutual cooperation through constructive dialogue based on PNA resolutions.

In a statement distributed in Gaza yesterday, Hamas called for dialogue with the PNA. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions, the military wing of the movement, stressed that Hamas does not want to destroy the peace. The statement called on the PNA to give the movement its freedom of opinion.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine today, Dr. Mahmoud al- Zahhar, who is close to Hamas, emphasized that there are dialogues and direct daily meetings between officials of the PNA and members of Hamas to discuss matters. Al- Zahhar said Hamas is ready to discuss procedures for municipal elections with PNA officials if these elections are announced. He emphasized his rejection of municipal appointments.

Hamas Official on Dialogue, Almog Remarks

JN2708174794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Interview with Hamas official Shaykh Ahmad al-Bahr by correspondent Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awad] Shaykh Ahmad al-Bahr, who is close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], good evening.

[Al-Bahr] Good evening.

['Awad] Shaykh Ahmad, today we heard a statement by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in which he says that he welcomes dialogue and cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] provided that Hamas does not participate in the authority. These remarks coincided with a statement issued by Hamas to this effect and was strongly welcomed by President 'Arafat. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Bahr] We welcome the constructive dialogue that serves the interests of the Palestinian people. However, the movement has adopted a view with regard to the participation in the PNA.

['Awad] Namely?

[Al-Bahr] Namely, not to join PNA institutions.

['Awad] Shaykh Ahmad, we heard, however, that Hamas has participated in the formation of the Provisitonal Municipal Council of Jericho?

[Al-Bahr] This is because municipalities are far away from the PNA institutions and because they serve the Palestinian people.

['Awad] Therefore, will Hamas take part in the legislative and municipal elections, God willing?

[Al-Bahr] That is if the legislative elections mean electing representatives of the Palestinian people, far away from the self-rule and its institutions.

['Awad] Shaykh Ahmad.

[Al-Bahr] Yes.

['Awad] This morning, we heard an Israeli military commander, Doron Almog, threatening to carry out military operations in Gaza if attacks against Israeli targets continued. What is your comment on this threat?

[Al-Bahr] This is the nature of the Jews. It is a method of pressure on our brothers in the PNA to strike at Hamas and 'Izz-al-Din Qassam.

['Awad] How do you view the current relationship between Hamas and the PNA?

[Al-Bahr] We hope it will be good. We seek to maintain the unity of the Palestinian people and to prevent Palestinian bloodshed.

['Awad] Shaykh Ahmad al-Bahr, who is close to Hamas, thank you very much.

[Al-Bahr] You are welcome.

Hamas Rejects 'Deal' To Free Shaykh Yasin

JN2508190994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Reacting to some news media's reports on contacts between Yasir 'Arafat and the enemy government to exchange Shaykh Ahmad Yasin for spy 'Adnan Yasin, a responsible source at the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said:

Categorically refusing to discuss this cheap 'Arafatist bargain, Hamas would not be amazed to see the spineless 'Arafat authority conclude this suspect deal with the Zionist government of repression and terrorism. This is yet another piece of evidence that the 'Arafatist authority is being used either as a toy manipulated by the usurping occupiers to serve their objectives and achieve their wishes, or a stick in the hands of the Zionists to attack the strugglers and insult their jihad and symbols—the true leaders of the heroic Palestinian people.

Continuing, the responsible source at the Islamic Resistance Movement said Hamas strongly denounces the

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exposed attempts against Shaykh Yasin, the symbol of the jihad, steadfastness, and intifadah of our people, who remained lofty and invulnerable to all attempts by the occupation and its supporters to undermine our heroic people's jihad and sacrifices. Hamas also warned the 'Arafat authority against capitalizing on our people's jihad and the symbols of their steadfastness and struggle, led by the struggling shaykh of Palestine, Ahmad Yasin.

Gaza Police Commander Reacts to Almog's Remarks

JN2708164494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on statements by Doron Almog, one of the Israeli Army commanders—in which he threatened to carry out military operations in the [Palestinian] National Authority areas in the Gaza Strip if armed attacks against Israelis continue—Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, commander of the Security Forces in Gaza, said: We deeply regret and reject these statements. He added that these statements are geared toward creating tension and ignoring facts.

Maj. Gen. al-Majayidah stressed that the police are carrying out their tasks efficiently, noting that such statements do not serve efforts to help the National Authority assume their heavy burdens. He expressed hope that the commanders of the Israeli army will not resort to such unjustified methods.

Abu-Middayn on 'Duty' To Capture Ramla Killers

TA2808133994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, "justice minister" in the PNA, by correspondent Steve Linde; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Middayn] I am not happy about what has happened in Ramla, This is a bad sign, and we are against this 100 percent as the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA].

[Linde] Do you think that what has happened will harm the peace process?

[Abu-Middayn] Well, the extremists on both sides, they will continue to try to harm the peace process, and we have to defend and to struggle against the extremists on both sides.

[Linde] Do you think, as justice minister now, that the Palestinian police will take action to find these people?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes, yes. This is their duty, and they have to do that.

'Arafat Adviser Calls Envoy's Return 'Violation'

TA2808202894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Nabil Sha'th telephoned Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening to ask why the Pakistani ambassador was not permitted to visit the Gaza Strip. Minister Peres replied that Israel will not agree to being ignored.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that this constitutes a clear violation of the peace agreement and that Israel will bear the responsibility for this. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the refusal to permit the entry of the Pakistani ambassador was sent as a signal to Benazir Bhutto that she will not be able to enter the Gaza Strip if she attempts to ignore the Israeli authorities.

One Killed in Clash Between Rival Security Groups

NC2908063694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Reports from the occupied territories say one Palestinian was killed and six others hurt in a clash involving rival security elements in 'Arafat's police in the village of Bayt Lid, north of the occupied West Bank. Eyewitnesses said Nidal Hasan Shihadah al-Khuli was killed and six other village residents were hurt when they tried to intervene to solve a problem between a group from the presidential security branch and another from the preventive security branch, which is commanded by Jibril al-Rujub. Both groups belong to the Palestinian self-rule authority.

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Algeria

Moroccan Border Closed, Visa Regime Imposed

Morocco Said Stopping Travelers

LD2708224494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Algerian radio has learned from reliable sources that the Moroccan authorities have started seizing and gathering all vehicles registered in Algeria on the way between Oujda and Rabat. The owners of those cars were taken to police stations, where they were questioned and their fingerprints taken.

Moroccan-Algerian borders at this time of the year experience a dense movement of Algerian nationals who go to Morocco for tourism or for crossing to Europe.

Sources of the radio said that members of Algerian families, which included women, children, and elderly people, had been subjected to massive harassment by Moroccan police services, which went into intimate details in their questioning.

Moroccan police services justified these acts by saying that they were implementing instructions issued by higher authorities in Morocco.

'Tense' Situation Reported

LD2708233694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The sudden decision made by the Moroccan authorities to impose entry visas on Algerian nationals and foreigners of Algerian origin has led to lamentable humanitarian conditions for citizens going into and out of the country and those who are crossing Morocco. It is an impediment to their interests, particularly since the start of the new academic year is near. During the last few hours, a radio correspondent from Maghnia, Mohamed Benamar has been monitoring the conditions of the citizens at the border crossings Colonel Lotfi and Boukanoun and has sent us the following report:

[Begin Benamar recording] Extremely tragic conditions and wide-spread condemnation are, at this moment, prevailing at the border crossings of Col. Lotfi and Boukanoun. Our nationals and emigrants traveling to Europe via Morocco have turned into what looks like real disaster victims. Dozens of cars loaded with women and children are facing inhuman waits and delays, and there is a shortage of drinking water and rest areas. [passage omitted]

The border crossings of Col. Lotfi and Boukanoun at the Moroccan side have been closed since 1900 on Friday to anyone who has connections with Algerian citizenship. French citizenship was no good, even to French nationals of Algerian origin. They are in a state of depression and are wondering about this measure that has caused inhuman suffering for everybody. They consider it a violation of human rights and are urging the French Government to take urgent steps with the Moroccan authority regarding their welfare.

The ordeal of our emigrants is greater. A large number of them will be delayed for work and their children for school. The situation of our community in Morocco does not bode well and is unsatisfactory. A large number of them have experienced great suffering, some of them have been waiting for over 15 hours they said. One of them said that he was forced to pay 900 dirham for a visa, and there are similar cases confirmed by many Algerians who returned from Morocco today. Up until the time of this transmission, over 740 Algerian citizens entered Algeria. Families of mixed marriages are living the same tragedy. An Algerian woman, a resident in Morocco, was refused entry to Morocco while her son was allowed to enter, and incidents like this are numerous.

We recall here that three million Algerians enter Morocco annually, and this figure reached four million in 1992. The situation is tense at the border crossings and remains open to further complications. [end recording]

Government Closes Border

LD2708203494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 94

["Text" of government statement on decision to close border with Morocco issued 27 August—read by announcer]

[Text] The Algerian Government has studied the Moroccan Government's decision on the imposition of entry visas on Algerians and all foreigners of Algerian origin. It has also received the explanations submitted by the Moroccan authorities to the Algerian charge d'affaires in Rabat, which confirmed that the decision was made unilaterally without prior consultation with the Algerian Government.

The Algerian Government expresses its regret at this decision, which has not been justified by the Moroccan Government. It also strongly regrets the situation brought about by some detentions and the humiliating measures taken by the Moroccan police against Algerian nationals.

The Algerian Government stresses that the decision, which is in breach of bilateral agreements—particularly the residence agreement dated 15 March 1963 and the Marrakech treaty that founded the Arab Maghreb Union—may have negative effects on the movement of people between the two countries, the development of bilateral cooperation, and consequently on relations between the two fraternal countries as a whole.

Thus, the Algerian Government regrets the need to impose an entry visa on Moroccan nationals, in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

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This measure will in no way harm the rights of the Moroccan community legally resident in Algeria.

The Algerian Government has also decided to close the Algerian land border with the Kingdom of Morocco temporarily.

The Algerian Government has issued instructions to the authorities concerned to take the required measures regarding this matter.

Protest Issued

LD2708074494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Algeria has received with the utmost astonishment and indignation reports that Algerian nationals living in some Moroccan cities have been subjected to scandalous measures and behavior by Moroccan policemen, following a decision by the Moroccan authorities to impose entry visas on Algerian nationals. The unacceptable treatment of our nationals that the Moroccan security authorities have resorted to does not at all serve the interest of the two fraternal peoples and is totally incompatible with the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakech agreement, which founded the Arab Maghreb Union.

As soon as reports of these measures were confirmed, the Algerian Foreign Ministry lodged a complaint with the Moroccan Embassy in Algiers and asked the Algerian Embassy in Rabat to do the same with the Moroccan authorities.

It is worth mentioning that the Moroccan Government yesterday decided to impose entry visas on all Algerian nationals and all foreigners of Algerian origin.

Transport Out of Morocco Offered

LD2808095394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Air Algerie is expected to allocate a number of flights for transporting Algerian nationals from the Moroccan city of Casablanca, starting today.

This measure comes after the Moroccan authorities' decision to impose entry visas for Algerian nationals who wish to travel to the Kingdom of Morocco.

GIA Announces Formation of 'Alternative Government'

NC2608185294 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 26 (AFP)—The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most hardline of the underground fundamentalist movements fighting in Algeria, announced the creation of an alternative government Friday.

In a statement sent to AFP in Paris, the group, which has claimed responsibility for a series of terrorist attacks in Algeria, said its leader Cherif Gousmi, would head the Caliphate government, the name given to the Islamic administration.

Gousmi, also known as Abou Abdallah Ahmed, would be designated as Caliph or Commander of the Faithful, the statement said.

The post of premier would be held by Mohamed Said, a former official of the rival Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), who went over to the GIA last month while Anouar Haddam, former head of the exiled FIS parliamentary delegation would be foreign minister, the statement said.

In Washington, Haddam denied having been contacted by the GIA. "I am not aware of any of this," Haddam told AFP by telephone.

The GIA and FIS have been fighting Algeria's military-backed regime since the military intervened in January 1992 to halt the second round of general elections that the FIS appeared poised to win.

The fundamentalists want to set up an Islamic state in Algeria but are opposed not only by the military but also by secularists, liberals and feminist groups.

Thousands of soldiers, civilians and fundamentalists have been killed in a fierce battle which has seen foreigners increasingly targeted this year, with over 50 killed since last September.

The GIA first announced its intention to set up a caliphate in Algeria in May. But observers said the timing of the latest statement was probably decided by President Liamine Zeroual's invitation of opposition parties to talks last week.

In the new GIA 11-strong cabinet, Ali Belhadj, the FIS deputy leader currently detained in the military jail at Blida by the Algerian authorities, was given an unnamed portfolio.

Said Mekhloufi, a former army officer who went over to the FIS, will take the key interior ministry portfolio.

Djamel Zitouni, believed to have organised the killing of five French nationals at Ain Allah near Algiers on August 3, was named as minister for the mujahadeen—the movement's fighting arm.

Cheikh Mossaab was named minister for religious affairs and an unknown man, given the pseudonym Ali El Afghani, was named as the GIA's minister for war.

The GIA statement said there would be "no truce" with the Algerian government and warned individual Algerians against seeking to negotiate with the authorities.

Zeroual on Sunday recommended that the opposition parties tried to persuade FIS leaders currently in prison to renounce violence and enter talks with the military.

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In a separate statement, the FIS exiled executive called on Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to resign in order not to "serve as a shield for the military junta and its terror."

In a statement sent to AFP in Bonn, the executive attacked Zeroual's recent calls for the FIS to remain true to the Algerian tradition of non-violence.

The violence perpetrated by the Algerian military had started the war in Algeria, the group said. "The FIS took part twice in elections without resort to violence."

"The best thing would be for you to resign," the statement said. The "military junta" is the "real power" in Algeria and has "no desire to find a just and real solution" to the crisis facing the country. Zeroual and his ministers, it said, were "prisoners of the military."

FIS Official Comments

LD2608202094 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Anouar Haddam, chairman of the FIS parliamentary delegation abroad, by Julie Svoboda in Washington on 26 August—first paragraph is announcer introduction; recorded]

[Text] Anouar Haddam will comment tonight on the announcement made by the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] regarding the formation of a government. Haddam denies being a member of this government, and he denounces and even questions the authenticity of the communique attributed to the GIA.

[Haddam] I honestly doubt the authenticity of such a communique as we were not consulted beforehand. It seems odd that our names should be put down without being consulted.

[Svoboda] So you think this communique was not issued by the GIA?

[Haddam] Exactly.

[Svoboda] What do you think of the offer of dialogue made by Algerian President Zeroual in which he asked for the condemnation of violence by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] prior to participation in the dialogue?

[Haddam] I think that since the beginning, we in the FIS have made it clear it is President Zeroual who has not honored his own promises made to FIS leaders Shaykh Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj imprisoned in Blida. Therefore, I do not think that he is a capable or valid interlocutor.

[Svoboda] Do you condemn those in the Islamic current who are ready to negotiate with the regime?

[Haddam] We in the FIS are ready; this means that Zeroual should give concrete signs that he accepts our conditions. He must demonstrate that he is capable of ruling the country, getting rid of those in the regime who use terror to cling on to power, and recognizing the FIS as a political party. Then it is up to the FIS and the FIS leadership to chose a delegation with the agreement of the mojahedin to enter serious negotiations in which representation is effective.

[Svoboda] Why don't you condemn clearly the daily attacks against intellectuals and foreigners and the burning of schools and threats against the children returning to schools. May I remind you that the GIA has claimed its responsibility for these attacks?

[Haddam] There is in fact a certain kind of media that is continuing to censor our statements. We have always condemned attacks against those who are not close to the regime or those who are not directly involved in security operations. We have always denounced and refused to use terror to gain power.

The main problem is that there is a certain political and media elite that refuse to accept reality. For instance, in the case of the schools may I remind you that these schools are located in poor areas that support the Islamic cause. As far as we are concerned, these attacks are carried out by the security forces in revenge against the people who support the mojahedin.

Faction Withdraws

NC2708190694 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 27 (AFP)—The man named as interior minister in an alternative government set up by Algeria's most hardline Islamic fundamentalist faction withdrew from the group Saturday [27 August].

Said Makhloufi, withdrew his support and that of his own political grouping, The Movement for the Islamic State (MEI).

Makhloufi said in a statement sent to AFP Saturday he was withdrawing his from from [as received] the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) which announced the creation of an alternative government in Algeria Friday.

"The MEI announces its separation from the Armed Islamic Group and the withdrawal of its brothers Said Makhloufi and Rabah Guettaf, from its consultative council," the statement said.

Makhloufi, a former officer of the Islamic Salvation Army (FIS), and Guettaf, his deputy, joined the GIA last May.

The statement said the GIA had strayed from legal means in securing its objectives and made reference to a GIA "fatwa" (religious decree) legitimising the use of prisoners and forced marriages known as "moutaa" and prohibited by Sunni Moslems in which women were forced to marry GIA leaders or other men.

The GIA announced the formation of its alternative government, led by a former leader of the FIS

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Mohammed Said, on Friday, and said it would be a caliphate or religious government.

The MEI statement strongly criticised Said, accusing him of settling factional accounts under the guise of fighting against the Algerian regime which in 1992 cancelled the second round of legislative elections the fundamentalists looked poised to win.

It said an audio cassette would be recorded to condemn Said and his followers in the GIA leadership for "the manoeuvres made setting up the alternative government".

Of the 10 ministerial appointments in the Caliphate government, Said Makhloufi was given the post of interior minister. The GIA leader, Cherif Gousmi, also known as Abou Abdallah Ahmed, was named "commander of the faithful."

Thousands of people have died in the fighting which has taken place in Algeria since the government cancelled the elections there with both FIS and GIA forces battling the increasingly hardline military authorities.

Presidency Statement on Contacts With Parties

LD2808194594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] The Presidency issued a statement today containing the results of the recent contacts with the delegations of the three parties that boycotted the national dialogue. Those contacts were made with the Front of Socialist Forces [FFS], the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], and the Ettahadi Movement. Following is the full text of the Presidency statement:

During his meetings with the political parties participating in the national dialogue on 21 and 24 August, the head of state said that contact would remain with the parties that were invited but did not respond to the invitation. During the discussion on 24 August, Liamine Zeroual acquainted the parties that were present of the results of the contacts with the FFS made by the Presidency on 22 August.

Within the same context, representatives of the Presidency met representatives of the Rally for Culture and Democracy on 25 August and with representatives of the Ettahadi Movement on 27 August.

During those two meetings the representatives of the Presidency explained in detail the methodology and objectives of the national dialogue that has been resumed by the head of state and the content of the four meetings held with the parties who responded to the presidential invitation. They also stressed the duty of each and every party to defend its own ideas through the dialogue, the framework of which was defined very clearly. They pointed out that the exceptional circumstances through which the country is passing and the issues submitted for dialogue call for all parties to bypass their selfish interests, put forward their contributions, and place their stances in the service of national interest and the consolidation of democracy.

For their part, the representatives of the RCD announced that the leading organs of the party would study the head of state's remarks during his meeting with the parties and the statements released by the Presidency, adding that the stances of their parties were neither dogmatic nor rigid. Regarding their current absence from the dialogue, RCD representatives stressed that the current dialogue is a waste of time and that they reject any dealing with fundamentalism.

The Ettahadi Movement, which took part in the aforesaid meeting with a delegation led by Secretary General Hachemi Chrif, presented a memorandum addressed to the Presidency in which it announced its total rejection of the dialogue methodology, which it consider a means of diverting attention from the reality and could become a serious danger.

The Ettahadi Movement believes that any dialogue based on looking for an agreement with fundamentalism would not bring a solution to the country's crisis. Finally, the Ettahadi Movement believes that the state should respond to the overall war declared by the terrorist fundamentalism with an overall war on terrorist fundamentalism.

The Presidency's statement has finished.

FIS Members on Possibilities for Peace

NC2808190094 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 28 (AFP)—The armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would lay down its arms if it were convinced there was a chance for a "just settlement" to the crisis in Algeria, two senior FIS figures told a newspaper here Sunday.

Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham, both FIS leaders, told the EL HIWAR daily, "Those who were forced to take up arms for legitimate and political reasons will decide, we think, to end the bloodshed."

However they would only do this if they were convinced there was a "just settlement assuring safety and peace and respecting the will of the nation to reform its religion and its daily life," the men said.

Thousands of people have died in the insurgency started in Algeria when the military-backed government intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the FIS was poised to win.

In the Sunday edition of the paper, the men, who were released from the Blida military prison to the south of Algiers in February, said the FIS supported the talks started between President Liamine Zeroual and legal opposition parties as "the beginning of hopes which, we trust, will not be dashed."

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They called for the party to be legalised and its leaders in prison since June 1991 to be freed.

A statement from the presidency Sunday said Zeroual had failed to persuade three parties which had been boycotting the talks to join them.

The three, including the former communist Ettahaddi Movement, oppose any inclusion of the FIS in a talks process.

The five parties which did agree to talks favour allowing the FIS to take part in discussions on the country's future despite their opposition to the Front's methods and insistence on Islamic rule.

In a statement sent to Zeroual, a copy of which was given to AFP Sunday, the Ettahaddi Movement called for a "total war against fundamentalist terrorism."

"There is only one route left, real and not imaginary, for the state to restore peace: respond to the total war of fundamentalist terrorism with total war against fundamentalist terrorism," the group said.

"Any dialogue based on a search for compromise would not bring peace" in Algeria, the group said.

The movement is one of several which oppose the fundamentalists including secularist, liberal and feminist groups.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement sent to AFP in Algiers Sunday, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed branch of the FIS, described the alternative government announced Friday by the rival hardline fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) as "worthless."

"Algeria's and the whole world's Moslems were surprised to learn of the formation of a so-called 'Caliphate government'," the statement said.

Calling the members of the GIA "mercenaries," it questioned the legality under Islamic law of the government proposed by the GIA.

A true caliphate government can only be set up "after consultation among Moslems," it said.

FIS, GIA Comments Said Contradictory

LD2708140494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] One week after the start of the open dialogue, which is aimed this time at reaching a unified platform for consensus, contradictory statements have been released by the leadership of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] ranging from acceptance to absolute rejection of the dialogue. Here are more details on these statements:

[Unidentified correspondent] One week after the start of the new round of dialogue, which has confirmed a willingness to break the ice between the authorities and the leadership of the banned FIS, things are moving so fast that numerous contradictions are emerging. Thus, in a statement to the press, Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham consider the dialogue as a prelude to hope and propose practical measures with a view to reaching a solution, starting with lifting what they call the political and legal injustices, the rehabilitation of the FIS, and an end to police raids and arrests. They also denied that the banned FIS wants to impose a program for society or that it wants ministerial posts without going to the polls.

However, these statements conflict with other communiques issued by the Executive Body of the FIS Abroad. This body has reconsidered the issue of violence and has redrafted the letter of Ali Belhadj, in which he rejects any dialogue with the authorities from which the armed branch is excluded. The armed branch for its part is boycotting the dialogue with three nos—no dialogue, no truce, and no reconciliation with the regime. It also warned anyone who negotiates on its behalf.

In the same communique, the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] announces the formation of a government of the Caliphate, with Abou Abdallah Ahmed [Cherif Gousmi] as the caliph, and Mohamed Said as prime minister.

At the same time, another communique has been released by the GIA, carrying a death sentence on the same Abou Abdallah, whom it regards as a criminal. The statement calls on the battalions of unification [Kata'ib al-Tawhid] to physically eliminate him.

This war of communiques, which is taking place in this open period of dialogue, highlights the huge contradictions that exist within the same bloc, and that could lead to a reshuffling of the cards at a time when, according to observers, dialogue is on the right track.

FIS Asks Zeroual To Resign, Renounce 'Clique'

JN2808133994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Algiers, London—AL-HAYAH—The Algerian Presidency has announced that dialogue with political parties will resume on 5 September. The Algerian mass media have highlighted President Liamine Zeroual's linkage of the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] participation in the dialogue and its open condemnation of terrorism. In a statement made available to AL-HAYAH, the front renewed its call on Zeroual to resign and "renounce the ruling clique." [passage omitted]

Presidency spokesman Mayhub al-Mayhubi said Zeroual encouraged the parties to meet with the FIS shaykhs, brief them on the dialogue, and solicit their view in this regard. He said Zeroual linked FIS participation in the dialogue with its open condemnation of terrorism.

In a statement, the FIS executive body abroad, chaired by Shaykh Rabeh Kebir, said: When Zeroual, pressured by the coupist generals, calls on the front to renounce

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violence we must ask: Who is the initiator of the violence that should be condemned? Is not the military clique the party that violated the Constitution, trespassed against laws, and practiced state terrorism? The FIS twice entered elections legally and did not resort to violence.

The statement added: Given the reckless policy of the corrupt military clique, we call on Zeroual to resign his post and decline to employ it as a cover for the terrorism of the corrupt military clique. The statement noted: Zeroual is unable to grant us even the right to respond to accusations and fabrications following the presidential statement, because he fears the media will reveal facts to the nation and explain the roots of the problem to public opinion. Therefore, it would be better for him to renounce this corrupt clique and submit his resignation, or he will be judged exactly the same as they. [passage omitted]

GIA Demands Boycott of French Products

LD2708181294 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] A piece of news just in: the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] has called for a boycott of all French products—motor vehicles and household goods in particular—as of 1 January 1995. In an undated communique sent to the AFP Algiers bureau, the GIA announced that the boycott concerns French cars and trucks from the car-makers Peugeot, Renault, and Citroen as well as refrigerators, washing machines, cookers, boilers, electrical appliances, electronic equipment, radio and television sets, and all French goods [as heard]. The communique stresses that all French goods entering Algeria after 1 January 1995—cars and other products—will be set on fire or damaged.

FFS Condemns Attacks on Schools, Universities

LD2708172894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS] strongly condemned the operations that set fire to and destroyed schools, universities, and vocational training establishments.

The FFS statement issued today added that the aforementioned operations have so far affected more than 450 educational establishments.

Islamic Arab Rally Says Dialogue, FIS Separate Issues

LD2708152394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Arab Rally believes that the credibility of the state cannot be realized without separating two issues. The first is the dialogue between the authorities and the opposition, which must be held within the framework of the constitution and the national consensus platform without favoring one party over another.

The second is the issue of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which, according to the Islamic Arab Rally, should have been dissolved on the basis of law and the constitution.

The Islamic Arab Rally believes that only the head of state has the authority to rehabilitate that party; and that interference by other sides will not resolve the crisis because the interference might be intended to achieve personal political goals.

Transitional National Council Denies Meeting FIS

LD2808180494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] A Transitional National Council statement issued today denied rumors about an expected meeting to take place abroad today between council members and a delegation from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The statement pointed out that any meeting of this kind would not take place because the council is a legislative institution that is not empowered to engage in such functions.

TNC Condemns Killing of Member

LD2508165294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Yesterday, Mohamed Kaci Abdallah was the target of a fatal assassination attempt. The deceased, Kaci Abdallah, was a member of the MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development] directorate, member of the Transitional National Council, and member of the Maghreb Consultative Council. He was married and a father of six children.

The Transitional National Council has issued a statement strongly condemning this crime, which targeted a faithful citizen. The statement added that this act, which came at a phase of dialogue that opened all avenues of hope, was an indicator that those who want to drown Algeria in chaos have not stopped yet.

The Transitional National Council denounced these barbaric crimes and reaffirmed its commitment, with all the political forces, to contribute toward leading the country out of its crisis.

For its part, the MAJD condemned these barbaric methods that target faithful men, and affirmed its strong belief in the victory of democracy.

Zeroual, Sifi Send Condolences

LD2608201394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Following the assassination of Mohamed Kaci, Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, sent a message of

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condolence to Abdelkader Bensalah, chairman of the Transitional National Council [TNC], and to the victim's family and colleagues in the TNC. The head of state said that the assassination was carried out by treacherous criminals who were aiming in vain to harm Algeria, destabilize its institutions, and shake its stability. He added that the authors of this abominable crime will not escape punishment.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi also sent a message of condolence to the victim's family and to the members of the TNC and its chairman, Abdelkader Bensalah.

Services Report 23 'Terrorists' 'Eliminated'

LD2708132094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Security services said in a statement that they eliminated 23 terrorists between 21-25 August.

The operation, in which a quantity of weapons and ammunition were recovered, included the provinces of Medea, Algiers, specifically in the El-Harrach and Kouba areas, as well as Skikda, Boumerdes, Blida, Sidi Bel Abbes, Guelma, Chlef, Ain Defla, Tizi Ouzou, and Annaba.

Security Forces Put 9 Terrorists 'Out of Action'

LD2808190794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] The security services announced today that the security forces have put nine terrorists out of action in separate incidents that took place between last Thursday and Saturday [27-27 August] in Blida and Boumerdes Provinces and in the capital of Algiers.

Egypt

Cairo Denies Unilateral Action on Iraq

MM2608140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p2

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Egyptian sources have stated that Cairo would never make a unilateral decision on the question of resuming diplomatic relations with Iraq or opening a new phase of dialogue with it in response to the initiatives made by Baghdad, and that any decision by Cairo would take into consideration coordination with the Arab states and would be conditional on Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait and implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

The sources said that the recent efforts made by Iraq for the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt included Iraqi confirmation of Iraq's willingness to recognize the international borders with Kuwait and accept the document of the border demarcation commission assigned by the United Nations.

The "sources" added that Iraq had called for a meeting, on the sidelines of the 102d regular session of the Arab League, between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers under the auspices of some Arab states and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss Iraqi assurances regarding recognition of Iraqi-Kuwaiti international borders.

Sa'di 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, first under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, arrived in Cairo last night and is expected to meet with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid.

Ambassador to Israel Previews Musa Visit

NC2908071894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Ambassador Basyuni, good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Basyuni] Good morning.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the goals of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel tomorrow?

[Basyuni] In fact, this will be the first official visit by Minister 'Amr Musa to Israel. The visit comes at an important time to give impetus to the peace process on the Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese tracks. In addition, he will discuss bilateral relations and ways to promote them to serve Egyptian national interests. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Egypt is eager to achieve peace on all tracks. Is the Israeli side offering something new to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Basyuni] Both the Israeli and Syrian sides have a definite desire to achieve peace. As you know, we are searching for a just peace so that it will be a lasting peace. Israel wants peace but in its own way. We demand full withdrawal from all the occupied territories. The current Israeli Government accepts the land for peace principle, which in itself is an important principle and the key to the solution. So the new approach by this government is its acceptance of the territorial dimension to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. This government accepts this principle. As a result, the Arab states have found that this government can be negotiated with to achieve a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace in the region. From this premise, we are optimistic that before the end of this year some sort of a declaration of intents could be reached, on which basis talks could begin to reach a peace agreement, God willing, between the two sides. [passage omitted]

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Sudanese Actions Against Installations Reported

Musa Shows Concern

NC2808150494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the Sudanese Government's recent measures against Egyptian installations in Sudan as "measures that do not bode well."

'Amr Musa did not elaborate.

Irrigation Stations Said Seized

NC2808124094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese authorities today seized 11 irrigation stations belonging to Egypt, including the building that will be used by Engineer Muhammad Fathi, general director of the Egyptian irrigation mission in Sudan. Fathi is due back in Khartoum on 29 August following a brief vacation in Cairo.

The Sudanese authorities expelled Egyptian irrigation employees and their families from these stations, leaving them homeless. Sudanese police also treated them badly.

With today's measures, all Egyptian irrigation posts in Khartoum have now been seized. A few scattered stations in the country are also expected to be seized. The director of the Malakal irrigation post in the south was given a three-day deadline, which actually ended today, to produce documents proving Egypt's possession of the station.

These measures are part of Sudan's current policy of reducing the Egyptian presence in Sudan. These measures began two years ago when Sudan seized schools administered by the Egyptian education mission and Cairo University's Khartoum branch; arrested Egyptian citizens and made false accusations against them; and began the ongoing process of seizing Egyptian irrigation posts.

Danish Foreign Minister Visits

Arrives in Cairo

NC2808071094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen and the accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo from Damascus this evening on a three-day visit, during which he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Upon arrival, the Danish foreign minister said he is eager to discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and his country, particularly in the economic and cultural fields, in addition to issues pertaining to the Middle East peace process at this significant phase.

He stressed the need for reaching a peace agreement on the Syrian-Israeli track, hoping this peace will be achieved under the many positive conditions now prevailing.

He pointed out that the efforts the two sides are making can be assisted and enhanced to achieve the desired results.

Asked for his impression of the talks he held in Syria, Petersen said the talks were positive and good and that they inspire hope for eliminating the obstacles hindering progress between Syria and Israel.

Asked about Denmark's role in the Middle East peace process, he said that his country was among the first states that promised to extend assistance, the equivalent of $40 million, to the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho immediately after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He added that his country sent international observers to the Hebron area, thus helping resume the peace talks that were halted in the wake of the Hebron massacre last February.

Holds News Conference

NC2808125494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and visiting Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen held a news conference at the end of two hours of official talks today.

Musa said the talks dealt with developments in the peace process. He noted that Denmark is a member of the European Union [EU], that the Danish minister arrived after talks with Syrian officials in Damascus, and that Denmark is contributing to the peace process and has peace observers in the West Bank.

Musa said the talks also dealt with developments in the Middle East, the Mediterranean area, and Europe, especially the Bosnian problem and Europe's role. He said the discussions also dealt with ways to boost bilateral ties, the need to promote investment and trade, and Denmark's aid to Egypt.

He said the Danish foreign minister stressed the need for work to increase investment opportunities and trade between the two countries.

For his part, the Danish foreign minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Egypt and said that he and Mr. Musa discussed issues of mutual concern.

He stressed that Egypt is playing an important and constructive role in advancing peace efforts. He said Denmark believes the time is right for a peace agreement among concerned parties in the Middle East.

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The Danish minister said ways to strengthen relations between Egypt and the EU were also discussed. He said his country supports concluding an agreement between the two sides.

Petersen praised the excellent relations between Egypt and Denmark, stressing that his country is willing to boost them in all areas.

Asked about the role Denmark can play in advancing the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Petersen said it is important to remove all obstacles in the way of these negotiations. He said Denmark is ready to do all it can to advance the peace process.

On Denmark's experience of contributing observers in Hebron after the al-Ibrahimi mosque incident and the possibility of repeating this experience, Petersen said his country does not object to contributing observers for other operations or for supervising elections in the West Bank. Our experience in Hebron was good, he said, pointing out that the decision by Denmark, Norway, and Italy to send observers to Hebron after the mosque incident was vital for the resumption of the peace process, which was suspended after the incident.

He stressed that his country is ready to play any similar role if asked to do so.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Danish foreign minister said the main task now is to continue pressuring the Bosnian Serbs, who are facing isolation even from their former friends—namely, the Russians and the Serbs in Serbia and Montenegro.

He stressed that this isolation should continue and that the results of the referendum in which the Bosnian Serbs rejected the peace plan should not be accepted. He called on the Serbian president to keep his promise to maintain the embargo against the Bosnian Serbs.

Asked about Denmark's assistance for the Palestinians, Petersen said his country will participate in the conference that will take place in Paris on 7 September to assist the Palestinians. He noted that Denmark is a major financier of the Palestinian Authority in infrastructure projects.

Denmark was one of the first countries that pledged to provide economic aid to the Palestinians; it promised to provide 250 million Kronas (between $40 and 50 million).

Peterson said the Danish development minister will chair Denmark's delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Shaykh Al-Sha'rawi Welcomes ICPD

NC2708083794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Prominent Islamic preacher Shaykh Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi welcomed the convocation of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo in early September. He said: Muslim President Husni Mubarak has clearly declared that no power can impose on us things that contravene our religion or our tolerant shari'ah.

In an exclusive statement to AKHBAR AL-YAWM published today, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi added: Islam intervenes in one case only, that is when pregnancy is confirmed. When a woman becomes pregnant, the fetus cannot be aborted after 120 days. A woman can get rid of the fetus before then if her life is endangered, but this can only be done after consulting a Muslim doctor.

Concerning reports that the ICPD will seek to give men and women equal rights, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi said: Islam gave women high status long before Western civilization. In Islam, women have been independently dispensing their money for more than 15 centuries without having to seek the approval of their parents or husbands. This is the opposite to what is happening in Western civilization, where the woman is still bound by her husband's views on financial matters.

'Militant' Muslim Group Threatens ICPD Attendees

NC2708074794 Paris AFP in English 0642 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 27 (AFP)—Egypt's main Muslim militant group on Saturday threatened foreigners attending next month's UN World Population Conference [International Conference on Population and Development—ICPD] here and claimed the killing of a young Spanish tourist.

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, or the Islamic Group, said in a statement sent to AFP that all "foreigners taking part in the 'licentious conference' put their lives in danger."

It said that the conference, which is being held from September 5 to 13, had been rejected by the Egyptian people and the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Al-Azhar.

Muslim fundamentalists have said the conference, which will agree on an action plan on population control, would promote extra-marital sex and homosexuality.

Al-Jama'ah also claimed an attack in southern Egypt on Friday [26 August] in which a 13-year-old Spanish tourist was killed and his father and mother wounded, along with two other people.

It warned that the attack marked a new stage in its campaign against the "heretic Egyptian regime."

Al-Jama'ah has spearheaded a violent Muslim fundamentalist anti-government campaign which has claimed more than 400 lives since March 1992.

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Spanish Child Killed, 2 Tourists Wounded in Qina

NC2608134394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—A Spanish child was killed and two Spanish tourists and an Egyptian tour guide were wounded when a tourist car was fired on in the Naj' Hammadi area in the Governorate of Qina, Upper Egypt, today.

In a statement on the incident, a security official said that at 1045 local time today a group of terrorists who managed to escape arrest during the sweeps conducted by the security agencies fired a number of shots at bus No. 25 of the Abu Simbil Travel Company, which was carrying a number of Spanish tourists. Pablo Ole Roshan, a 12-year-old Spaniard, was killed; Ole Roshan Robando, a 46-year-old Spaniard, was wounded in the chest; Julio Denis, a 40-year-old Spaniard, was wounded in the right foot; and Iman Nur-al-Din, the accompanying Egyptian tour guide, was wounded in the right ankle.

The source added that key officials in the Qina Security Directorate, the various detective agencies, and the criminology laboratory moved to the scene of the incident to examine it. The Prosecutor's Office has been notified to launch an investigation. The security forces are searching all the areas and the surrounding roads to arrest the culprits.

Moreover, the source said that the security forces succeeded this morning in apprehending eight fugitive terrorists who were involved in terrorist incidents in Asyut. He said in his statement that the hideout the terrorists used in the city of Suhaj was attacked on 22 August and three of the fugitive terrorists were killed.

The source added that eight fugitive terrorists—including Sayyid Ja'far 'Ali Subh, the principal terrorist in Asyut who is closely associated with fugitive terrorist leaders Mahmud Sayyid Salim and Rif'at Zaydan—were arrested early this morning.

This terrorist took part in planning, preparing, and carrying out several terrorist operations, particularly the assault against the Anglican Church guards in Dayrut in case No. 6815 in 1993. [passage omitted]

Five 'Terrorists,' Policeman Killed in Security Sweep

NC2708100794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Suhaj, 27 Aug (MENA)—Five dangerous terrorists were killed in Markaz Tima in the Governorate of Suhaj during a sweep by various security directorates in Suhaj to track down and arrest fugitive terrorists.

During this campaign, Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahim was martyred.

The security directorates had received information about a group of terrorists hiding in a den in Tima city. While the security forces were storming the terrorists' den, they were surprised by bullets fired at them, which left them no choice but to respond with fire.

The shootout left five terrorists dead. A police officer was also martyred. Arms and ammunition were found with the five terrorists, in addition to a number of papers and documents that are now being examined by security departments specializing in this field.

Officials from various investigative departments and forensic experts have gone to the scene of the crime, while the prosecutor's office has been instructed to begin an investigation.

Police Conscripts Killed, Wounded in Upper Egypt

NC2608195894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—A conscript was killed and another wounded this evening when unidentified assailants opened fire at the residence of an officer in Hayy al-Masalih area of Qina, then fled.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that at approximately 1930 this evening, unidentified assailants opened fire at the house of an officer in Hayy al-Masalih district of Qina. Conscript Rabi' Ahmad Hammam was martyred and conscript Hamadah Muhammad Mahmud was hit in the chest and the right hand and was taken to Qina General Hospital.

Leading security officials and criminal laboratory experts have arrived to inspect the scene of the incident. The prosecution office has been notified to start an investigation. Policemen are now conducting a search of the area to arrest the assailants.

Education Minister Appeals Against Veil Ruling

NC2908111894 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (AFP)—Egypt's education minister has appealed against a court ruling on the wearing of veils that blocked government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools.

In his appeal presented at the higher administrative court Sunday Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din argued that the law gave him authority over all matters concerning pupils and school life.

The court decided to give its verdict on the appeal from September 4. [sentence as received]

The Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of a ministerial decree prohibiting girls from wearing the Islamic veil to school without written permission from their parents.

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On Friday Baha'-al-Din told the opposition Islamic paper AL-SHA'B "the ruling is binding and it must be implemented".

"If the law gives us the right to appeal, then we will appeal," he added.

The court said the school uniform was a "general freedom" that the Egyptian constitution protects.

It also said the minister went beyond his powers by issuing a decree that could only be passed by parliament.

He issued the decree last May, after the school year ended, in an attempt to curb growing influence of Muslim extremist teachers.

He said the law was to ensure that schoolgirls were not being forced to wear the Islamic dress code for women that covers everything except the face and hands.

Many Egyptian schools have adopted the veil as part of the school uniform.

Morocco

Armed Algerians Arrested; Visa Requirements Set

LD2608211694 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The security services arrested two members of an armed group last night in Fes. The Ministry of State for Interior and Information issued the following communique:

In a search and surveillance operation launched by the government in the aftermath of the armed attack, which occurred in the lobby of the Atlas Asni Hotel in Marrakech, the security services were able to arrest two elements of an armed group on Thursday night, 25 August. The arrests were made as a result of the great and dynamic work carried out by all the services that contribute to maintaining security, mobilizing the authorities, and cooperating with the population in a spirit of patriotism and spontaneity.

The two arrested people were in possession of military weapons and accessories. According to the preliminary findings of the investigation, the armed group, which in general includes Algerians and some Moroccans from France, had planned to launch attacks against some banking establishments, elements of the security services, and peaceful people.

In view of the fact that the involvement of Algerian nationals or those of Algerian origin has been established, the Moroccan Government has decided to impose a compulsory visa on all visitors of Algerian nationality and all foreigners of other nationalities who are of Algerian origin and who wish to enter Morocco. Moroccan consular and diplomatic authorities abroad have received the necessary instructions to put this government's decision into practice. They have been told to grant visas to applicants according to the normal procedure in this regard,

Moroccan authorities call on all people of Algerian nationality or origin currently in Morocco for tourism, business, transit, or any other purpose to report as soon as possible to the nearest police commissariat or Royal Gendarmerie center to regularize their situation.

The Ministry of Interior and Information will be certain to inform the public on any development in the investigation.

Communique on Arrest of Group

LD2808232694 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] A third communique by the Interior Ministry clarifies the arrest of armed elements involved in the attack of Atlas Asni Hotel in Marrakech. The Interior Ministry states:

Within the framework of the firm and immediate measures adopted by the authorities, after the attack on Atlas Asni hotel in Marrakech on 26 August, in order to maintain the safety and security of the citizens and their possessions and to quickly arrest the attackers; and following the wide mobilization of all elements involved in the protection and maintenance of security including the offficial servicemen and the general public, these efforts were able to identify the terrorist perpetrators of this terrible act which was abhored and denounced by the general public.

It became clear that the attackers were indeed of the nationalities that were announced in the first communique released on Friday 26 August.

Two members of this dangerous terrorist group were arrested, the first at the railway station in Fez and the second in (?Taourit) on the road to Ougda. The third was able to leave Morocco for abroad. The weapons, ammunition, and other material in their possession and used in the attack in Marrakech were also recovered. It include five machine guns, 10 (?magazines, 130 7.5-mm bullets, 114 9-mm bullets, 35 7.65-mm bullets, one hand gun with a silencer, one stick of dynamite, two portable sets, three masks, two pairs of black gloves, one knife, and one cleaning tool.

According to the available evidence in posession of the security services, it appears that the attacks carried out against the McDonald enterprises in Casablanca on 11 August 1993, and on the Moroccan Company for Deposits and Credits on 23 August 1993 in Ougda, and on the trade center Macro in Casablanca on 15 July 1994 were all the work of the group that was arrested. Everyone arrested so far will be referred to the Fez court, which has the file of the case. This concerns the following:

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— (Ait Eder Stephan), French of Algerian origin; born in Paris on 6 February 1972 and resident of Cournouf, France.

— Hamdi Radwan, Moroccan; born on 21 November 1970 in Paris; carrying French nationality and resident of Cournouf, France. Both of these were involved in the attack on Atlas Asni hotel in Marrakech.

— Kamal Bennakcha, nicknamed Reda; Algerian with French nationality; born 21 August 1968 in Ourlion and lives in the same city.

— Abdesselam Karouaz, nicknamed Hisham; Moroccan born on 19 June 1968 in Casablanca and lives in Paris the 16th district.

The Justice Ministry has issued an international order for the arrest and repatriation of those involved and are still at large and clarifications will be provided to enlighten the national public opinion about them.

Further Communiques

LD2908003694 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Within the framework of guidance issued by the government, and as a result of the speedy and dynamic mobilization of all departments of the Interior Ministry and all security organs, and thanks to the vigilance and effective assistance of the citizens, a number of terrorists of foreign nationalities have been arrested. Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition have been found and seized. In this connection we have received from the Interior Ministry some new information contained in three communiques.

The first communique concerns the arrest of two members of an armed group in the city of Fez. The communique says:

According to the information given to the public on Friday, 26 August 1994, regarding the armed assault on the Atlas-Asni Hotel in Marrakech and the arrest of two members of an armed group which intended to carry out other attacks in the city of Fez, the Interior Ministry would like to provide the following clarifications:

When the two members of the Fez group were arrested they were in possession of:

- an Uzi 9mm machinegun, with a magazine containing 23 bullets;
- one tear-gas grenade;
- an electric [word indistinct];
- one portable Japanese-made telecommunications set equipped with a scanner.

Also found were a Mercedes automobile, registered in France and belonging to a member of the group, containing two 12 mm pump-action shotguns, 88 model; 20 catridges; one knife; one cleaver; and two masks. An intensive search is still going on. The public will be informed of any other news.

The second communique concerns the discovery of an important arms and ammunition cache in Agmour. It says:

The extensive search and investigation carried out by the security services have resulted in the discovery of an important arms and war ammunition in Agmour in the region of Taza.

At this arms and ammunition cache, which was nothing but the family home of one of the group's members who was intending to carry out infiltration operations, the investigators discovering it seized the following arsenal:

- 29 pump-action shotguns;
- 1 one Kalashnikov assault rifle;
- 1 one Italian assault rifle;
- 19 tear-gas bombs;
- 99 rifle magazines with 30 bullets loaded in each of them, making a total of 2,970 bullets for Kalashnikov rifles;
- 4165 bullets for 9mm handgun;
- 244 rifle cartridges 12mm;
- 154 automatic hand gun bullets 7;mm;
- Two magazines for a machinegun;
- 22 portable communication sets;
- One communication set specially designed for car use.

The search is still underway and any new elements will be reported. [passage omitted]

Visas Available at Border

LD2808104894 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0935 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Rabat, 28 Aug—The Moroccan Interior Ministry has issued a statement in which it points out that while waiting for the placement of the necessary staff at Morocco's embassies and consulates abroad to administer the imposition of entry visas for Algerian nationals and other nationals of Algerian origin, the visitors to whom the ministerial order dated 26 August applies will be able to obtain a special permit to enter Morocco at border posts.

The statement says that this measure will be valid until Tuesday, 30 August 1994, and that it will apply to travellers who can justify their ignorance of the measure decided by the Moroccan authorities or furnish information on very pressing reasons for visiting Morocco.

Following the Moroccan decision to impose entry visas for Algerian nationals and foreigners of Algerian origin, a large number of Algerians turned up yesterday at the Moroccan consulate in Algiers to apply for entry or transit visas.

About 40 men and women went to the Moroccan general consulate, where they were handed the relevant application forms to fill in. There was a similar turn out at the Moroccan consulates in Oran and Sidi Bel Abbes in western Algeria.

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Rights Official Cites Measures Against Algerians

LD2808143294 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] In Morocco, at least one voice has been raised against the measure taken by Rabat. It is the Moroccan Human Rights Association [AMDH]. The AMDH has called for this procedure to be annulled. Abdel Mounir is the AMDH official in charge of foreign relations:

[Begin Mounir recording] We believe that the recourse to visas as such often means an attack against and limitation of the right to move about freely. In the Moroccan legislature in particular, in theory, this recourse could have been—or should have been—introduced only within a specific legislative framework. This has not been the case: there was a decree instead of a law.

We believe that all members of a population—whatever it is, whether it be defined on a national, ethnic, or religious level, or some other level—should not suffer on account of the actions of some of the people who belong to the other groups.

We have had information from Algerian authorities and diplomats according to whom almost all Algerian tourists have been expelled from hotels. All the Algerians slept outside or on the roads and, of course, we are concerned about these people and we are obviously ready to take all possible steps to guarantee all their rights. [end recording]

Sudan

Government Spokesman, U.S. Envoy Meet

EA2708162694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official government spokesman to the peace talks, today met at his office in the Friendship Hall, Ambassador Melissa Wells, the U.S. President's envoy to the peace talks.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj stated that they discussed the mechanism for the talks during their meeting. He expressed the hope that the new mechanism for negotiations would be more effective, and would take into account the issues proposed and the attempts to submit them through shuttle diplomacy between the parties to the talks.

During the meeting, Dr. Ali al-Hajj added that he reiterated Sudan's adherence to, and clear stand on, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development states' agreement. He called on the Nairobi meeting scheduled for 5 September to concentrate on the fundamental issues submitted, and not tackle procedural matters.

U.S. Envoy Meets Assembly Speaker

EA2808170594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, has stressed Sudan's faith in the homeland's common destiny and territorial integrity and its rejection of the principle of self-determination for the south. During a meeting this morning with Melissa Wells, U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy to Sudan, Mr. Khalifah said the government was serious in its efforts to bring about peace.

Mr. Khalifah briefed the U.S. envoy on the results of the recent round of talks with the two factions of the rebel movement. He stressed the importance of adhering to the decisions made during the previous rounds of talks. His excellency also stressed the importance of adhering to agreements reached by the United Nations, the Organization of National Unity [as heard], and regional organizations on tackling the problems of the region within the framework of guaranteeing the unity and stability of states.

On the next round of talks, Mr. Khalifah pointed out the need for action and serious progress in order to arrive at positive results.

Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah briefed the U.S. envoy on a number of regional issues. During the meeting, they also discussed the relationship between the state and religion. The TNA speaker emphasized the existence of religious tolerance and the absence of discrimination in Sudan.

The U.S. envoy is due to continue her tour of the region, and is then expected to head for Nairobi, with a view to bringing closer together the viewpoints of the parties to the talks, so as to give impetus to the peace process.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Donald Petterson, the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum.

Al-Turabi Views Extradition of 'Carlos'

AU2908123994 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 29 Aug 94 pp 132-135

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, "spiritual leader of the fundamentalist military junta in Khartoum and Sudan's de facto ruler," by unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "Carlos Sold Himself"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Why did Sudan grant refuge to Carlos, a terrorist who was wanted all over the world?

[Al-Turabi] He lived in our country for a few months, that is correct, but....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...how many months—three, four, or perhaps an entire year?

[Al-Turabi] About a year, probably a bit less. Anyone who wants to know that exactly had best go to the responsible authorities....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...even high-ranking government officials point to your influence when such important things

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are involved. Did the acceptance of an internationally wanted terrorist not discredit your country internationally?

[Al-Turabi] Listen: Carlos entered the country with a forged Jordanian passport. Since any citizen of an Arab country may visit our country without a visa, we did not have any reason to check his papers in any special way. We did not even know that Carlos was hiding in our country.

[DER SPIEGEL] Where did he come from—Syria, Iraq, or Lebanon, as various Arab intelligence services now report?

[Al-Turabi] Carlos came from Jordan, and he was accompanied by a Jordanian woman.

[DER SPIEGEL] And when did you learn that he was Carlos? Your police are not considered particularly sleepy....

[Al-Turabi] ...I do not understand all this excitement: A terrorist manages to cheat our aliens' police for some time with forged papers. By Allah, something like that certainly happens far more frequently in Germany or in other European countries than here in our country.

[DER SPIEGEL] Did you get the hot tip from France?

[Al-Turabi] Over the past weeks, our state protectors grew suspicious, they did not need help from the other side of the Mediterranean. This man's almost provocative way of living and the large amount of money that he spent here made us suspicious. There were no commercial activities, which he had claimed when he entered the country.

[DER SPIEGEL] And Paris gave you ultimate certainty about Carlos' true identity only shortly before the arrest?

[Al-Turabi] Why are you sticking to this so much? But it is true: We realized only rather late whom we had caught.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why did you not arrest him immediately when you realized that he was Carlos?

[Al-Turabi] When we were sure we acted quickly. First, we told Carlos to leave Sudan immediately, because we did not want anything to do at all with such dubious figures and their wirepullers, whom we do not know.

[DER SPIEGEL] Listen, Carlos has been searched for on all continents for years. You could have arrested him immediately.

[Al-Turabi] We did not lose any time. When Carlos refused to leave Sudan—we had demanded that he should go back where he came from, namely to Jordan—we extradited him to France.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why to France and not to Germany, for instance, where an arrest warrant has been issued for Carlos?

[Al-Turabi] The French request for extradition came by return mail. We did not see any reason to protract the case unnecessarily, and we were glad that we were able to get rid of the problem of Carlos in a legitimate way and without any delays.

[DER SPIEGEL] What do you expect from France in return?

[Al-Turabi] You had better forget the smears of the sensationalist media. There is no deal with the French....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...not even mining rights for the French oil corporation Elf Aquitaine in the south, not even weapons for the fight against the rebels in southern Sudan, for instance?

[Al-Turabi] No, no, and again no. I know what I am talking about. But I want to give you another reason why we were in such a hurry to get rid of Carlos immediately: We did not want to give anyone the opportunity to benefit from the presence of this criminal, for instance, following the motto: They are sympathizing with this terrorist; perhaps they even want to let him escape. We thoroughly thwarted this intention of our enemies.

[DER SPIEGEL] Who are these enemies supposed to be?

[Al-Turabi] All those who are interested in accusing Sudan of granting asylum to terrorists and of cooperating with them.

[DER SPIEGEL] The accusations are older than this Carlos affair....

[Al-Turabi] ...and for us they are finally over, basta [enough]! Carlos has nothing to do anymore with Sudan. None of Carlos' lot has stayed here.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will terrorists from neighboring Islamic countries who are searched for under an arrest warrant and who ask for asylum in your country also be extradited in the future?

[Al-Turabi] Politically persecuted people are something completely different. Carlos was a criminal, perhaps even a murderer. Carlos did not represent an ideology, he sold himself to various customers in this part of the world.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you are providing militant fighters with training camps?

[Al-Turabi] Only Sudanese are being trained in Sudan to defend our country and our belief. Militant non-Sudanese Muslim groups, Arabs or Iranians, are not trained in our country—no matter how many lies the foreign press launches.

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Kuwait

Islamic Establishment Agreement With IDB Set

LD2708181994 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 27 August—The Islamic Development Bank [IDB] announced today that the agreement of the Islamic establishment for guaranteeing investment and providing credit cover to exports has come into effect after 30 Islamic countries signed it and 11 others endorsed it.

A statement issued by the bank said that the establishment's capital amounted to 100 million Islamic dinars, equivalent to $145 million, of which the Islamic Development Bank has contributed half. The establishment is a corporate body and an independent financial institution, and its properties and assets are legally protected. [passage omitted]

Oman

Crackdown on 'Islamic Militants' Continues

'Foreign-Sponsored' Network Dismantled

NC2908100494 Paris AFP in English 2216 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Muscat, Aug 28 (AFP)—Oman said Sunday it had dismantled a network of foreign-sponsored Islamic militants—the first in the country.

The official Omani news agency ONA said the militants were linked to "foreign parties, financially and for their organisation".

ONA did not name the foreign parties involved.

The agency said security forces had arrested "more than 200 people who made up this underground network" over the past few weeks.

It accused them of "using the Muslim faith as a smokescreen to sow sedition in Omani Muslim society and undermine national unity".

On Saturday, western diplomats in Muscat said more than 200 Islamic activists had been detained in an unprecedented crackdown launched in May and which was still going on.

The diplomats said those arrested included politicians, soldiers, university lecturers and students.

Some were released after being questioned, the sources said.

Diplomats Say Over 200 Arrested

NC2708200794 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 27 (AFP)—Omani security forces have rounded up more than 200 Islamic militants in a series of raids which began in May, western diplomats in Muscat said Saturday [27 August].

Politicians, soldiers, academics and students were among those arrested, the diplomats told AFP by telephone.

The detainees were being questioned about possible links with Islamic movements in other countries. Some had already been released, but the arrests were continuing, the sources said.

No official statement was released about the crackdown in the Sultanate.

Yemen

'Security Source' Denies Salih Met 'Carlos'

JN2808064694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 16

[Report by Hasan Mayy]

[Text] Sanaa—The Yemeni Government has denied that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has met with the international terrorist Carlos.

A responsible security source said: This is basically untrue. The reports that Carlos stayed at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa during one of his visits to the Yemeni capital are also untrue.

The source added: Carlos had good relations with the Yemeni Socialist Party when it was in power in what was known then as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen before the Yemeni unity. He used to visit Aden, staying for months on occasions.

Press reports say that 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Haydar al-'Attas supported Carlos' activities. The security agencies of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the reports say, asked Carlos to assassinate former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad after he was toppled in 1986.

Interior Minister Views Security

JN2808200894 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 94 p 6

[Interview with Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-JUMHURIYAH] To begin with, we repeat our congratulations on the victory of Yemen's unity, wishing the fraternal Yemeni people continued triumph, progress, and strong unity.

[Al-Mutawakkil] Thank you. We seize this opportunity to thank the Iraqi leadership and people for their genuine support. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How do you assess the security situation in Yemen after the failure of the secession conspiracy?

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[Al-Mutawakkil] The security situation in Yemen is more stable than it was even before the war because the Yemeni people support legitimacy and struggle to preserve unity. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What is the idea of local government and how much has been achieved in this regard?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The local government was not merely a reply to the enemies' allegations. Rather, it was one of the most important goals of the General People's Congress before and after unity. Since 1988, President Salih has been stressing the importance of local government. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] When will the elections begin?

[Al-Mutwakkil] The brother president said they will begin later this year or earlier next year in January or February. In other words, they will be held in six months, and we are trying to hold them as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] It has been said that forces from Saudi Arabia entered Yemen during the crisis. What do you say?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The so-called royalist elements actually entered Yemen. At the beginning, they opposed the communist regime in the south and were called the salvation army and then the army of peace. What is strange is that these forces were opposed to unity and were sent to back the rebels during the war, but most of them joined the legitimate forces, to the disappointment of those who sent them.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Some sides say that the security situation in Aden is unstable. What do you say?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The security situation in Aden is stable, and you will see that for yourself when you visit it today. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How great were the losses?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Preliminary assessments indicate the war costed over $3 billion. However, we have not yet assessed damage to our Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

YSP Aden Branch Statement Condemns War, Secession

JN2608110494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden]

[Excerpts] A Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau member has stated that [Presidential Council] Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih contacted Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former prime minister of "the Democratic Republic of Yemen" last Saturday evening. The YSP Political Bureau member also told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that he expects former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to play an important role in the future. If he is appointed as vice chairman of the Presidential Council, YSP Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad will become YSP secretary general, or vice versa.

The YSP Aden branch, the most important YSP branch in Yemen has issued its first statement following the end of the war in that country, condemning the decision to wage war and to carry out secession, and affirming that the secession decision is the stand of a few people who alone assume responsibility for the war and its results. The YSP Aden branch called for reactivating the dialogue committee to achieve a comprehensive reconciliation, for setting up a national salvation government that will take into consideration political balances, and for canceling all exceptional measures.

The YSP Political Bureau member told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that contacts are under way with former [as published] U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes to secure adequate guarantees for the return of some YSP leaders to Yemen. The political bureau member who declined to be named said that contacts were also held with officials in the General People's Congress, headed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, explaining that Culture Minister Jarallah 'Umar, who is in Cairo, contacted Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani more than once to have him convince the authorities to take steps that will encourage YSP leader to return, such as evacuating their houses, returning their cars, and releasing their aides.

The YSP Political Bureau member said that the leaders whose return is being discussed are Political Bureau Members Jarallah 'Umar, Housing Minister Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, and Ahmad 'Ali Salami, as well as YSP Central Committee Members Mahmud Midhi, former culture and finance minister, and House of Representatives member; and Rajih Salih Naji. [passage omitted]

The YSP Political Bureau member said that Chairman Salih phoned al-'Attas on Saturday, noting the importance of this contact as al-'Attas is one of the 16 who are wanted for trial. The member said this shows that Chairman Salih is discussing the amendment of the list or issuing a general amnesty that will allow for national reconciliation prior to a regional one. [passage omitted]

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Turkish Business Delegation Visits

Denounces Blockade

JN2808202794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Visiting Turkish businessmen representing major Turkish industrial and trade firms and corporations have denounced the crime of maintaining the economic blockade on Iraq.

In statements to the Iraqi News Agency today, they said the aggression against Iraq has produced negative results for Turkey's economy and its trade exchange with other countries. They urged the owners of industrial and trade firms and corporations throughout the world to pressure international circles to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Dalim Araz [name as transliterated], head of Turkey's Chamber of Commerce Federation and leader of the Turkish delegation, said the Turkish delegation's visit to Iraq is part of efforts to enhance cooperation and trade exchanges between the two friendly countries and to help break the unjust blockade.

He added that the opening of the [Faysh] Khabur trade center is a major turning point in trade cooperation between the two countries, particularly under the circumstances of the blockade imposed on Iraq, and that this move will bolster relations and good neighborliness between the two countries.

'Ali Witmojin [name as transliterated], deputy leader of the Turkish delegation, expressed his admiration of and appreciation for Iraq's achievements despite the unjust blockade, in terms of reconstruction in a record time that sets an example of challenge and self-reliance.

Uz Am'an [name as transliterated], a Turkish businessman, said his colleagues in Turkey would cooperate seriously with Iraq to secure its needs for necessary materials and commodities in all areas, expressing hope that Iraqi-Turkish relations would return to normal in order to activate trade exchange between the two countries.

Isma'il Itol, owner of Tolistan company for canning and packing, said that maintaining the blockade clamped on Iraq is viewed as a crime of the modern ages committed by imperialism against peaceful nations.

Meets With Irrigation Minister

JN2908090094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir met today with a delegation representing the Turkish corporation (INKA), currently visiting Baghdad along with a delegation of businessmen representing major Turkish trade and industrial firms.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed joint cooperation in irrigation between the Ministry and the corporation and ways of developing it to enhance relations between the two neighborly countries and serve their mutual interests.

Visit Hailed

JN2908085494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the blockade imposed on Iraq is breaking up and is now in its final stage. It will not be long before the world acknowledges that what happened to Iraq was a crime against many nations, and not only against the Iraqi people.

In an article today, the newspaper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The world is now awaiting Iraq's active return to the international political and economic arena, now that the last episode of the blockade is almost over. Our people will finally get what they deserve in return for their patience, steadfastness, and sacrifices.

The paper adds: Indications over the past few months confirm that everybody is now looking forward to having the blockade lifted so as to make up for the losses incurred after halting cooperation with Iraq. Some countries have indeed taken practical measures toward this end. This has been manifested clearly and practically in the recent Turkish moves.

The paper says the visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Baghdad can only be seen as a prelude to a quick and active return to trade between Iraq and Turkey. Ankara has said that it has lost millions of dollars and that its southeastern parts have seen economic and security deterioration because of the blockade.

The paper adds that the Turkish prime minister's recent announcement that the Habur border point will be shortly opened for trade is a step which practically signals a break in the wall of the blockade. The world is now convinced the blockade is a conspiracy that serves the schemes of the United States, which does not care about its negative effects on others.

AL-THAWRAH says many other countries share Turkey's views, including Russia. These countries could no longer remain silent so they said publicly that their interests are threatened by the blockade. Some major Western firms are competing, with their governments' knowledge, to secure trade and economic contracts with Iraq, the paper says.

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'Serious Talks' Reportedly Held

JN2908121194 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by the economic editor]

[Text] AL-ASWAQ has learned that a Turkish delegation, comprising Turkish businessmen and officials, arrived in Baghdad via Jordan at the end of last week. Sources said that the Turkish delegation and the Iraqi Government are currently holding serious talks to set priorities for commercial exchange between Turkey and Iraq. These talks also deal with the role that Turkish businessmen will play during the stage described by the Turkish delegation as the threshold of lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

These sources told AL-ASWAQ that Turkish-Iraqi trade is currently being conducted on a limited scale and is focused on some Turkish businessmen buying Iraqi goods and peddling them to European markets through Turkey, especially basic commodities produced by Iraq. In return, certain basic consumer goods which Iraq needs are peddled into the Iraqi market. The Turkish businessmen are making huge profits this way and sometimes payment to the Turkish side is linked to contracts to sell oil in the future after the embargo is lifted. The Turkish delegation is expected to return to Amman this afternoon.

The same sources said that the Jordanian authorities have tightened measures on goods entering Iraq from Jordan. Only three to five trucks per day are allowed to enter Iraq via Jordan in a development described by Iraqi sources as compatible with the conditions of easing the siege on al-'Aqabah port. However, these sources are optimistic that the economic embargo on Iraq will soon be lifted. There are ongoing negotiations and intensive efforts by many parties in this regard. The climax of these efforts to lift the UN embargo on Iraq will be an official visit—the first of its type—by Tariq 'Aziz to the United States to discuss with U.S. Government officials the issue of lifting the embargo on Iraq. This visit will take place next September.

Program for Cooperation Signed With Sudan

JN2808091094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Sudan have signed an executive program for cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation for the next three years 1995, 1996, and 1997.

The program was signed for Iraq by Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research, and for Sudan by Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, minister of education and higher education.

According to the program, Iraq will offer one hundred scholarships for students in Iraqi universities and institutions to study in applied and technical fields which Sudan needs. Iraq will also allocate 10 places a year to Sudanese students to prepare for the Masters and Doctorate degrees. Sudan will allocate 10 higher education scholarships a year in specialities chosen by Iraq.

The program also calls for exchanging university staff and encouraging the exchange of university professors to supervise researches. It also calls for exchanging visits by professors in the various scientific and literary fields to give lectures and study the teaching methods at equivalent universities. The duration of the visits is set at two weeks at maximum.

Also according to the program, Sudan will bring from Iraq experts in the field of Arabization to benefit from the Iraqi experience in this regard.

Fahd's 'Submission' To U.S. Said To Fuel Debt

JN2608142094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Aug 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Diya' Hasan: "Fahd Reaps What His Hands Have Sown"]

[Text] The International Bank of Settlements announcement that the Saudi regime has withdrawn vast amounts of its foreign assets to cover its general budget deficit is an accurate indication of the bad economic conditions facing that regime.

According to the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, a magazine that specializes in economic affairs, this regime's assets dropped from $139 billion in 1982 to $83 billion in 1991, following its involvement in the 30-state aggression against Iraq. They might drop even more when the cost of heavy military armaments sucks up thousands more of those assets in December 1994, when the financial settlements of Saudi assets abroad are announced.

These bad economic conditions became even clearer after U.S. finance houses announced the Saudi regime's inability to make the payments its debts, compelling it to postpone these payments and then to pay more interest on the debts, which it was scheduled to start paying on 22 August 1994.

An article by Edmond O'Sullivan, the magazine's chief editor, reveals a very significant point: The Saudi regime's debts are the result of big loans it obtained from U.S. finance houses to cover the expenses of the U.S. and Western forces that launched the aggression on Iraq. In other words, this Fahd obtained loans from U.S. institutions to pay for a U.S. aggression, and then made things worse by giving Clinton the opportunity to operate U.S. industries that fulfill the orders of companies selling aircraft, tanks, and telephone systems to Saudi Arabia.

Proof of the Saudi regime's submission to the U.S. Administration and its economic interests is its acceptance of the tight schedule the Americans have set for the payment of these debts when they know, and Fahd—who

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is blinded by his hatred of Iraq—also knows, that the terms of U.S. creditors cannot be met by the Saudi regime without creating economic conditions that make it difficult to balance revenues and financial liabilities; this is required to cover the costs of the contracts and purchases in which the regime has drowned itself by its involvement in the 30-state aggression and by undertaking to pay its heavy costs.

It is not strange for the international bank's statistics to reveal the drop in Saudi Arabia's revenues as a result of its economic straits and budget deficits. Western analysts and finance houses also do not expect that regime to recover or regain its equilibrium in the foreseeable future, because, as Clement Wright, managing director of the MIDDLE EAST MONITOR said, it cannot draw up a harmonious policy while it is incurring more debts and its resources can barely meet its foreign financial obligations and pledges, especially with the current drop in revenues due to the deteriorating oil prices in world markets.

The winner, as it now seems and as it has always been expected, is the United States, which continues to drown its ally. For it is the one that is selling and receiving and the one that is granting loans and gaining. The loser is Fahd, who reaps what his hands have sown.

Paper Says U.S. Planning To Topple Saudi King

JN2808120694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that the United States will remove King Fahd of Saudi Arabia from his throne, which he has always employed in the service of the West.

The paper adds: This is not mere speculation or an expectation. It is almost a tangible reality now, taking into consideration the increasing signs that the United States is planning to make swift changes that will remove from power Fahd and another group of the Al Sa'ud Family. Fahd, and his deviationist clique, will not be helped by the services he rendered to the United States or the fact that he was the most submissive, subservient, and responsive when it came to implementing the base and conspiratorial U.S. designs against the Arabs.

The paper notes that the history of relations between the United States and its agents in the Third World shows that absolute loyalty and blind obedience to the United States cannot provide a guarantee to the agents that they will remain on their thrones or in power when Washington feels that toppling this or that agent can contain the popular discontent against him.

The paper stresses that the internal conflict in Saudi Arabia is growing and is being expressed in various forms as a result of the Al Saud family's treacherous stands and disgraceful role in the aggression [against Iraq].

The paper adds: Consequently, the United States is trying to anticipate events to contain the growing internal conflict by toppling Fahd and his clique.

IRNA Reports Hizballah Victory Over PUK

LD2608181694 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Naqadeh (West Azerbaijan Prov.) Aug. 26, IRNA—In the wake of heavy battles between the Revolutionary Hizballah party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK) of Iraq for control of Guman, the Hizballah eventally got control of that strategic point Thursday.

A speaker of Hizballah said Guman, 60 kilometers from Hajj 'Umran in northern Iraq was not under the control of Jalal Talabani's PUK.

He said the PUK had suffered a lot in the battle.

Battles between PUK on one hand and the Kurdestan Democrat Party, the Islamic Movement, and the Revolutionary Hizballah, on the other, had continued throughout most of northern Iraq for three months now.

The Islamic Republic has consistently tried to strike a peace agreement between the rival groups and looks forward to total stability in northern Iraq.

Talabani, Barzani Urge Peshmergas To Stop Fighting

NC2808175994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1625 GMT 28 Aug 94

["News report"]

[Text] The Kurdistan National Council held an extraordinary meeting on 27 August. It was attended by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General Jalal Talabani; Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leader Mas'ud Barzani; and Kurdistan Prime Minister Kawthar Rasul 'Ali.

The Council members addressed a number of questions and proposals to Talabani and Barzani, who responded by emphasizing the steps being taken to halt the infighting and normalize conditions in Kurdistan.

During the meeting an announcement was made that the PUK and KDP political bureaus will hold a meeting on 28 August.

Three parliamentary committees were also formed and were instructed to visit the Halabjah-(Janjan), Raniyah-Qal'at Dizah, Shaqlawah, and (Jaman) fronts to restore things to normal there. The committees have begun work.

Brother Jalal Talabani and Mr. Mas'ud Barzani addressed the following joint telegram to all the peshmarga forces in Kurdistan:

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To all peshmarga forces in Kurdistan and all political parties in Kurdistan: Greetings. A delegation of the Kurdistan National Council, enjoying full authorization from the Council and from us, is visiting your positions to stop the fighting and identify the aggressor and those who violated the parliament's resolutions and disobeyed two earlier telegrams from us. Everyone is required to cooperate fully with this parliamentary delegation and implement its instructions.

Signed: Jalal Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani. 27 August 1994.

It should be noted that as soon as the parliamentary delegation arrived at the Raniyah-Qal'at Dizah front last night, the masses received it and urged its members to seek to halt the bombardment of Qal'at Dizah so that its residents can return to their homes.

INC Official Says 'Heavy Fighting' Continues

NC2908120494 Paris AFP in English 0728 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 29 (AFP)—Eight people have been killed in further clashes between rival Kurdish groups in Iraqi Kurdistan despite a ceasefire call from their leaders, officials said here Monday.

"There is still heavy fighting," said Ghanim Jawad, an official from the Iraqi National Council (INC), a coalition opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It includes the two main feuding Kurdish groups—Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Eight more people—five militiamen and three civilians—were reported killed with many others wounded in the area of Qal'at Dizah near the Iranian border, he said.

Barzani and Talabani called on their followers on Thursday to stop the fighting, in which at least 350 people, mostly PUK members, have died this month, according to Kurdish officials.

Kurds seized part of northern Iraq in an uprising against Saddam Husayn's forces following the 1991 Gulf War.

PUK Leader Talabani Escapes Car Bomb Attack

NC2608140794 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Aug 26 (AFP)—Key Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani has escaped a car-bomb attack in northern Iraq which killed one person, his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said Friday.

The party's office in Damascus said the car bomb in the city of Irbil blew up just minutes after Talabani's convoy drove by after a meeting at the Kurdish parliament with his rival Mas'ud Barzani on Thursday.

The driver of the booby-trapped car was killed, a PUK spokesman told AFP, adding that an investigation was underway to find out who was behind the assassination bid.

Talabani and Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), broadcast a joint appeal from parliament late Thursday for an immediate end to fighting in northern Iraq which has claimed at least 350 lives.

Clashes erupted in May between the PUK and KDP for control of Iraqi Kurdistan, an area of northern Iraq seized by the Kurds after a revolt against President Saddam Husayn following the 1991 Gulf War.

The PUK and the KDP announced an agreement in Paris on July 23 to stop fighting but several ceasefires have been broken.

On Wednesday [24 August], Talabani's party denounced Turkey's air raids against Turkish Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, charging the attacks were aimed at crushing the Kurdish administration in the region.

Official Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt

JN2608194194 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent]

[Text] Tehran—Iraqi opposition sources in Tehran have said Zammam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, a prominent member of the Iraqi leadership, was the target of an assassination attempt when gunmen belonging to the Iraqi opposition attacked his house in the city of al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq two days ago.

These sources added that several guards were wounded and the daughter of the Iraqi official's brother was killed in the operation.

Zammam 'Abd-al-Razzaq has been the target of two other assassination attempts. He was wounded in the second attempt when an opposition member detonated a bomb in a hall during a celebration marking Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's birthday on 28 April [1994].

Kurdish Leader Says Over 600 Killed in Past 10 Days

LD2808123294 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Naqadeh, W. Azerbaijan Prov., Aug. 28, IRNA—The civil war in Iraq's Kurdistan where the allied forces announced no-fly zones in late 1991, has inflicted 500 million Iraqi dinars in damage during the past four months, said a Kurdish source.

In an interview with IRNA Saturday, leader of the Iraqi Kurdish revolutionary Hizballah Shaykh Adham Barzani said he was not informed about the precise death toll of the clashes but asserted that more than 600 armed Kurdish peshmergas and civilians were killed as a result of the fighting during the past 10 days.

He said the recent civil war in northern Iraq was out of control adding that the real losers were the people.

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The reason behind the clashes, he said, is the political differences betwen the two major rival parties in Iraq that is the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The people want the administrative system which went into effect in Iraqi Kurdistan as of 1991 to be changed.

After the cessation of the war waged by the allied forces against Iraq and determination of the no-fly zone which prohibited Iraqi military and civilian flights, a joint PUK-KDP new administration came into office in Iraqi Kurdistan.

During parliamentary elections, with the mediation of Westerners the two parties agreed to hold equal seats and have representatives in all organizations and government branches.

Paper Reports Measures To 'Economize'

JN2608150694 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 20 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] Baghdad—In a statement to AL-'IRAQ, an official source in the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has said: In light of the leader's 12 August 1992 message on prudence, the ministry has taken several measures to economize on expenses by depending on local materials, while maintaining the same standards of quality and specifications, and by benefiting from paper, glass, and copper leftovers by recycling them. It drew up a list of priorities for its activities and tasks with regard to maintaining the supply of electricity, operating fertilizer plants and food industries, and producing tires, batteries, and paint for industrial purposes. The ministry was able to fully meet the demand for electricity to operate the petrochemical complex in al-Basrah and other plants, including cement and textiles. The ministry found local alternatives for raw materials and used what was available locally. Savings from the use of local alternatives amounted to $257.73 million. Furthermore, the ministry benefited by reviving old equipment, making an additional saving of more than 110 million dinars.

The source also said: The ministry encouraged the recycling of all types of leftovers, making a saving of about 40.65 million dinars. It repaired damaged equipment, a savings of 432 million dinars. Moreover, the ministry tackled the problem of shortages of several items of reserve equipment by exploiting capabilities available in the workshops of the various state enterprises in order to maintain the wheel of production. The value of the revamped equipment amounted to $458.50 million, which is all savings. In addition, the ministry played a role in providing alternatives and spare parts to other ministries such as the Ministries of Transport and Communications.

Regarding projects, the ministry source said: The ministry completed the projects that foreign companies had abandoned. It built new units to meet the country's needs. Furthermore, it fully exploited available local resources, such as the phosphate fertilizer plant in al-Qa'im, the carbon black factory in Bayji, and newly discovered metal ores such as sulphur and bauxite, which are used in strategic industries.

Regarding the agricultural sector, the source said: The ministry carried out several agricultural projects for crops that can be processed, such as planting olive trees, growing cotton and sunflower, preparing seeds and chemical substances, and reconstructing and restarting operations in the sugar factories in Mosul and Maysan.

The source added: The ministry played a major role in setting up al-Najaf Car Tire Factory, which produces radial tires to bolster existing capabilities. The ministry also entered the field of producing agricultural tires by using locally manufactured molds. Moreover, it contributed to the implementation of the southern and northern al-Jazirah irrigation projects in Ninawa, al-Qa'id project in Samarra', and Taj al-Ma'arik and al-'Izz Rivers in Maysan.

The source pointed out that despite the difficult economic conditions and the lack of hard currency, the production process has not stopped. The total value of production during the period since the beginning of the blockade is more than 6.850 billion dinars. During this period, he said, Industry Ministry teams carried out several initiatives and creative efforts in various industrial fields and in the implementation of several irrigation projects, such as reconstructing al-Basrah bridges, and contributing to the Umm al-Ma'arik River.

Concluding, the source said: The strugglers at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals will make any effort, offer any sacrifices, and use all their creative energies in order to break the unjust blockade and to advance, under the leader and great struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him.

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Cabinet Ratifies Early Empowerment Agreement

TA2808123294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The cabinet this morning unanimously ratified the early empowerment agreement initialed by Israel and the PLO on Wednesday [24 August]. However, Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit expressed reservations about the accord, saying it did not define the geographical boundaries of Jerusalem and Jewish settlements in the territories. The Palestinian Authority yesterday approved the accord, which transfers control of taxation, education, social welfare, and tourism to Palestinians in the territories. The agreement is due to be signed tomorrow at the Erez checkpoint between Israeli negotiator Dani Rothschild and the PLO's Nabil Sha'th.

The cabinet also heard reports on the murder of the two Israeli technicians in Ramla, and the police investigation. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said the Palestinian Authority should be warned that if acts of terrorism continue inside Israel a total closure will be reimposed, and no Palestinians will be able to work in Israel. No security, no jobs, this is what the Palestinians should be told, Ya'aqov Tzur said. But the reaction of the other ministers was not enthusiastic, as I heard from Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer when I asked him if there would be another closure of the territories. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin told the cabinet the number of work permits for Palestinians would not be reduced, but there would be a crackdown on illegal entry and on Israelis employing Palestinians without permits. None of the ministers advocated holding up the peace process on account of the terrorist attacks. Ya'aqov Tzur said this would be giving a prize to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and as you heard, the cabinet unanimously ratified the agreement with the Palestinians on early empowerment. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 28 August adds that, speaking at the cabinet session today, Prime Minister Rabin said that "no closure will be imposed on the territories and the negotiations with the Palestinians will not be suspended in the wake of the Ramla murders, but no Hamas prisoners will be released either."]

Two Israeli Workers Killed in Ramla Attack

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA2708113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli construction workers found dead at a building site in Ramla near Tel Aviv yesterday. The two workers have been identified as Gil Revah, aged 22 from Bat Yam, and Shlomi Kapah, aged 24 from Holon. Steve Linde has more details:

[Begin Linde recording] In a faxed message to Qol Yisra'el, the military wing of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, claimed responsibility for the attack in Ramla in which Gil Revah and Shlomi Kapah were stabbed to death. The Hamas statement says the killings came on the six month anniversary of the Hebron massacre and are one of a series of attacks to avenge Barukh Goldstein's murder of 30 Palestinians on the 25th of February. Hamas vows to strike twice more by the end of the year.

On yesterday's attack Hamas, which violently opposes the Israel-PLO peace accord, says: Our lions stabbed them with knifes until they were dead. Revah and Kapah, who both recently completed their army service, were reported missing by their families yesterday afternoon when they failed to return home from work. The two had been fitting a lift in a building on Weizman Street in Ramla, a town southeast of Tel Aviv. Representatives of the elevator company went to the site and discovered their mutilated bodies in the evening. They called the police, who launched an investigation. Police detectives found a knife used in the attack in the cupboard containing the building's electricity meters, and nearby a pack of cigarettes with the words Hamas secret unit number 19 written on it. Police say Revah and Kapah were probably killed while eating breakfast on the fourth floor of the building.

The building contractor told police he employs Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip who enter Israel with the necessary permits. He said he employs security guards during the day and night due to the fact that Palestinian and Israeli laborers work together at the site. [end recording]

Opposition Parties Blame Government

TA2708114294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The opposition Likud and Tzomet parties say the government is to blame for the double murder in Ramla. Likud Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar says cooperation between the government and the PLO is preventing an effective war against terrorism. MK Eli'ezer Sandberg of Tzomet says the government's wholesale release of terrorists encourages others to commit murders, knowing they too will be freed. The YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction is demanding that the government impose an immediate closure of the Gaza Strip and transfer responsibility for its economy to Egypt. MK Gonen Segev says past experience has proved that opening the Gaza Strip in consideration for Palestinian workers only brings more murderous acts.

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Rabin: 'Arafat Remarks 'Nonsense'

TA2808165794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli political sources said today that the next two days are a test period for the PLO. Israel is demanding that the organization apprehend the Ramla murderers. The cabinet directed Ministers Shahal and Namir to submit to the Knesset legislative proposals on tougher punishments for contractors who employ Palestinian workers without the proper permits. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Israel has conveyed an unequivocal demand to the PLO to catch the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who murdered Gil Revah and Shlomi Kapah in Ramla. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says security elements are familiar with them. The prime minister said Israel's security forces will continue to operate against Hamas, adding that he expects cooperation on the part of the Palestinian police in preventing additional Hamas attacks.

[Rabin] We are dealing with Hamas....

[Segal, interrupting] Within the autonomy area?

[Rabin] ...in the areas under our control and by preventing their exit [from the autonomous area] to the best of our ability. The two murderers came into sovereign Israel from Gaza, and we failed to prevent this. We want the Palestinian police to be a full partner in preventing the departure from Gaza of those who are forbidden to do so. In Judaea and Samaria, it is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the other security branches that are responsible for this.

[Segal] Political sources termed the next few days a test period for the PLO. Some even hinted that if the PLO does not act against Hamas, the Israeli security forces will launch pinpointed operations against Hamas activists in areas under Israel's control [as heard]. Ministers Sarid and Rubinstein referred to the political linkage:

[Sarid] It is clear that they cannot prevent all the attacks, but they can and must demonstrate supreme efforts. If we do not reach the conclusion that they are seriously striving to live up to this task, it is obvious that the agreements cannot be implemented unilaterally.

[Segal] Is Israel demanding that they be caught and tried in Gaza, or does it want them to be tried in Israel?

[Sarid] The important thing is that they be apprehended and incarcerated for life. It is less important for me where they are jailed.

[Rubinstein] If the PLO fails to curb Hamas—and it makes no difference to us whether this is because they cannot or do not want to—the process of handing over additional territory to the Palestinian Authority will be severely harmed.

[Segal] Prime Minister Rabin explained his decision not to impose a closure on the autonomy areas by stating that all the terrorists who carried out attacks over the last year were residents of the territories who did not have permits to enter Israel. Rabin demanded to take firm steps against contractors who employ such workers:

[Rabin] I will ask Ministers Namir and Shahal to submit to the Knesset legislation that will mete out heavy penalties against Israeli employers who bring in terrorists for work in Israel.

[Segal] The prime minister totally rejects 'Arafat's remarks that the Ramla murders stemmed from a work dispute:

[Rabin] Yesterday, I heard Nabil Sha'th and Furayh Abu-Middayn unequivocally denounce the murder. Abu-Middayn is in charge of the justice portfolio in the Palestinian Authority. He said that steps will be taken to detain them. If 'Arafat said that the murder stemmed from a dispute between contractors, this is simply nonsense.

[Segal] Despite all the talk, Prime Minister Rabin is against suspending the negotiations. The cabinet unanimously ratified the early empowerment agreement for the West Bank. This agreement will be signed by Major General Dani Rothschild and Nabil Sha'th at the Erez checkpoint tomorrow. [end recording]

Peres Calls Sha'th, Demands Fight Against Hamas

TA2808184894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke on the telephone with Nabil Sha'th this evening and demanded that the Palestinian authorities capture the murderers and wage a more determined battle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Meanwhile, a senior Shin Bet official spoke with the head of the Palestinian security service and detailed Israel's requests and expectations with regard to these issues.

Peres Comments on Terrorism, Peace Talks

TA2708135294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Shlomi Stein; place and date not given; from the "In the Current Situation" program—recorded]

[Text] [Stein] Foreign Minister Peres, Palestinian terrorism is not ending. This weekend it reaped two more victims in the center of Israel.

[Peres] Yes, this is very grave. Yet the question must be asked how can we eradicate terrorism. Some people believe we can wipe out Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] by directing artillery fire against them, or

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that we can eradicate terrorism by gunfire. We have tried to do this for a long time and have scored only partial success. In my opinion terrorism can be eradicated by eliminating its causes, which are both political and economic. Some people are cynically asking why are we helping the Palestinians economically. Well, economic help for Gaza will bring greater calm to Gaza itself, and will make Gaza workers less dependent on work in Israel. It is preferable to bring the work to Gaza than to enable Gaza workers themselves to come here.

[Stein] Do you think that security checks for Gaza workers coming to Israeli construction sites should be stepped up?

[Peres] There is always room for better checks. There are signs, however, that these people were properly licensed. One can never gauge people's thoughts. Nobody can read the hearts and minds of other people—this is the real problem. It is possible that some impeccable people enter Israel and all of a sudden go berserk and run amok. Nobody can foresee this. Therefore I am convinced that, in addition to all the security, military, and police measures which must be implemented, we must ceaselessly strive to make the Gaza economy self-sufficient.

[Stein] Is the government going to ratify the early empowerment agreement tomorrow?

[Peres] Yes.

[Stein] What is the next move?

[Peres] First, we must view the situation soberly. Are we interested in educating Palestinian children? Would we agree, as a nation, to have somebody else educate our own children? This is the first time in history that the Palestinians can educate their children according to their own concepts and culture. The same holds true for health and the other issues. At a later date we will have to start discussing the issue of elections and the future of the autonomy. At this point we have to implement what was agreed, namely, the transfer of powers to the Palestinians in the five spheres.

[Stein] When will elections be held?

[Peres] I never deal with timetables, because this does not depend entirely on us, and therefore any forecast could be 50 percent off the mark.

[Stein] Does Israel agree to expanding the autonomy from Gaza and Jericho to all parts of Judaea and Samaria within several weeks?

[Peres] Look, I am not going to speak about weeks, days, or months. I absolutely refuse to discuss dates. I am only saying that we will abide by what we have promised, as long as the other side abides by its commitments.

[Stein] This weekend there were press reports that Lebanon conveyed to Israel that it is willing to set up a situation similar to the Jordan arrangement, namely, an interim arrangement preceding a permanent arrangement. Will Lebanon reach an arrangement with us before Syria?

[Peres] Unfortunately I do not believe so. Lebanon today is in the tight grip of a Syrian bear hug. I do not believe it is capable of reaching any independent decisions at this point.

[Stein] Did it pass such messages to Israel?

[Peres] There were pleasantry messages, not substantial messages.

[Stein] So we should not put our hopes on the Lebanese track?

[Peres] I would not recommend this. I always thought that Jordan and the Palestinians can proceed without Syria. But I doubt whether Lebanon can make a move without Syria.

[Stein] Is there any progress on the Syrian track? We have heard that the secretary of state is about to visit our region.

[Peres] No. At this point the Department of State officials are on vacation, and so are the negotiations. They are scheduled to resume mid-September.

[Stein] What is happening on the Jordanian track since King Husayn flew through Israeli airspace, the agreements were signed, and the border crossings opened? Do you expect imminent progress?

[Peres] I believe that on the Jordanian track we have to overcome the two main issues, after which the road will be opened wide. I am referring to the border and water issues. I think we can solve the border problem. A lot of thought must be given to the water problem; how to overcome the enormous water shortage in the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular.

[Stein] Are we close to such a breakthrough, or will the agreements be miraculously signed only after we reach agreements with Syria.

[Peres] Look, we are not on the verge of these negotiations, rather in their midst. Just like any negotiations, there are bound to be ups and downs, but in the end we will reach an agreement.

[Stein] When will this take place?

[Peres] I told you not to ask me about dates. I cannot answer this question.

[Stein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Sarid on Palestinian Failure To Curb Terror

TA2808133794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by political correspondent Shlomo Raz outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

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[Text] [Raz] Minister Sarid, you decided not to impose a closure and not to reduce the number of Palestinian laborers. Will you contact the Palestinian police and perhaps make an unequivocal demand that it locate and turn in the murderers?

[Sarid] We certainly demand this. We demand that the murderers be captured—and I am referring to this case, as well as others—and punished with the full severity of the law, either by handing them over or in some other way. This is obvious. I also believe that this is the major test of the Palestinian Authority.

[Raz] Suppose it ignores our requests?

[Sarid] If we—the government, but primarily the Israeli public—are not convinced that they are doing everything they can to punish the murderers, I envision many difficulties and complications further down the road. I am not at all certain that the road toward progress in implementing the agreements will not be blocked eventually.

[Raz] Do you mean that the implementation of the initial early empowerment agreement may be stopped if the Palestinian authorities do not take steps to turn the murderers over to Israel?

[Sarid] No, certainly not that. We signed the agreement, and we will honor our signature. Yet, as is well known, it is just one step. We are about to begin negotiations on elections in the territories, on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, on the powers that will be given to the elected body, and on other, very important issues. I feel that if we do not reach the conclusion that the other side is doing its best to curb terror, I anticipate many pitfalis and obstacles along the way.

Beilin: al-Asad May 'Cherish' Conflict, Not Peace

TA2908073094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by correspondent Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Gay] Good morning Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Gay] I would like to start by asking for your comment on what has become the Pakistani affair—namely the fact that the Pakistani ambassador to Egypt was held up at the Rafah crossing yesterday, while Israel announced that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would be unable to enter Gaza without coordination with Israel.

[Beilin] We signed a very detailed agreement with the PLO on the crossings issue, which had been debated at length. I think this government has gone to unprecedented lengths, but we will not tolerate agreement violations. Anyone planning to enter the autonomy during the interim agreement period must act through Israel by informing it in advance. Unless this is done, entry will be prohibited.

[Gay] Even though Dr. Nabil Sha'th informed Israel that the ambassador, whom the Palestinians had expected, was waiting at Rafah?

[Beilin] Definitely. Even in such a case. We refuse to be told that there are people waiting and then be expected to let them in. We want them to coordinate it with us in advance, and if they do, I believe there will be no problem in most cases, because we do not want to make unnecessary difficulties. We are very determined to adhere to the letter of the agreement, and we expect the Palestinians to adhere to the letter of the agreement as well.

[Gay] I believe Mrs. Bhutto plans to arrive on 4 September. How much of a notice does she have to give to be granted entry?

[Beilin] If she makes her announcement through the media, that is no notice as far as we are concerned. If she finds the right way—and there are ways and means, as we have connections at the United Nations and elsewhere—we will be able to consider her request very seriously, and I assume there will be no reason to refuse her entry to the autonomy even if her visit does not include Israel.

[Gay] Do you mean this is a bureaucratic matter, and not a matter of principle, of a personal objection to the woman herself?

[Beilin] There is certainly no objection to her, God forbid, and the issue is not bureaucratic either. There is a principle involved: The sides must adhere to even the minutest detail of the agreement, because there will be no future otherwise. [passage omitted]

[Gay] One of the newspapers quotes you as saying in the Mashov circle last night that al-Asad may be unprepared to pay the price of full peace in exchange for the Golan; that only a partial agreement will be achieved with him; and that if peace is not achieved quickly, the process may be put off until after the 1996 elections.

[Beilin] Not exactly. I do not think there will be a partial peace with al-Asad. I think there will be either full peace or no peace at all. I do not think the partial peace option exists. Concerning al-Asad's willingness, I said yesterday that since al-Asad is regarded as a very wise man—we have the testimony of all the American secretaries of state who have met with him—I think his failure to respond to the very far-reaching declarations made by the prime minister and the foreign minister during the past two years is very odd. This failure caused me to suspect that perhaps he is not as interested in obtaining land in the Golan Heights as he is in proving to the Americans that he is okay. His broadcasting King Husayn's flight over Israel on television and so forth is an example of that. Perhaps he cherishes the asset—with

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or without quotation marks—of confrontation with Israel too much to be willing to lose it.

[Gay] Perhaps we are rushing forward too quickly?

[Beilin] We are definitely not rushing forward too quickly.

[Gay] I mean the declarations about our willingness.

[Beilin] I think we had to say what we did, and I do not regret anything that has been said. On the contrary, if even these declarations fail to compel al-Asad to move ahead, he will show the entire world that he is not interested in promoting peace. We will have an affirmation of that within a relatively short time, because we have no more than a few months left.

[Gay] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Adviser Denies Progress in Lebanon Negotiations

TA2608133194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The defense minister's media adviser says that since the last meeting between Israeli and Lebanese representatives in Washington last February, there have been no talks between the two countries. No changes have taken place in Israel's positions regarding future arrangements with Lebanon, and Israel is not aware of any changes in Lebanon's position regarding this issue. Syria's position is that peace negotiations with Lebanon must not be dissociated from the negotiations with Syria itself, and therefore there is no basis to all the talk about a separate agreement with Lebanon. These remarks were made by the defense minister's media adviser.

Lubrani Denies Progress

TA2708155194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] According to some newspaper reports, Lebanon has sent a series of messages to Jerusalem expressing willingness to reach a settlement within what was called a short period of time. Having received a proposal delivered by Israel's coordinator in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, the Beirut government expresses wish to begin detailed negotiations based on the Jordanian model for peace. So much for what was reported. To try and find out what lies behind it, Alan Ben-'Ami went to the man who is said to have delivered the Israeli proposal, the man in charge of the Lebanese track, Uri Lubrani.

[Begin recording] [Lubrani] Well, as you know, we have been tied to the progress on the Syrian track, on the bilateral talks. I haven't heard of any meaningful progress on this track which would merit a meaningful dialogue between us and Lebanon at this point in time. By the same token, I am sure—and I expressed it a few days ago—that progress as we see it on the Jordanian track and on the Palestinian track must, I think, bring in its wake progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. This is something which to my mind will happen, and will happen not in the too distant future. I don't see it happening tomorrow. I don't know of any concrete Lebanese reference to its readiness to deal with a proposal mooted by Israel. Lebanon to this very day, to the best of my knowledge, has been adamantly sticking to its formula of the implementation of 425....

[Ben-'Ami, interrupting] In other words, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Yes, absolutely. And we have made it abundantly clear that we will want to deal with all outstanding problems, including security problems, within the framework of the joint military working group. But that is to me the state of affairs between us and Lebanon at the moment, and we hope that within the next few weeks we will see some progress. But I can't at this point in time point my finger at anything concrete which has happened in the last few days.

[Ben-'Ami] What would you like to see happen? What would you like to hear from the Lebanese specifically that you think could get things moving? You talk about perhaps in a few weeks something moving. There must be something in the wind.

[Lubrani] What I am waiting for is to see whether these two tracks—which are by virtue of political reality tied to each other—will begin to make some progress, and this I hope might happen in a few weeks.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you believe that progress with the Lebanese can begin even if there is no progress being made with the Syrians at the same time? Do you think Syria would not put a spoke in the wheel of talks and progress between Israel and Lebanon?

[Lubrani] Well, quite obviously I would love to see such a thing happen, but in practical terms I have no reason to believe that it could, without coordination between Lebanon and Syria.

[Ben-'Ami] Where do you see Syria at the moment? Again there appears to be some sort of progress, there is a discussion going backwards and forwards between Syria and Israel with some American mediation.

[Lubrani] This is something which all of us have been waiting for. This is not my track and I can't refer to it, but I believe that once there will be progress on the Syrian track—any kind of progress—there will be progress on the Lebanese track.

[Ben-'Ami] The daily attacks are continuing, also against the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. We are getting reports, rumors, speculation about a settlement between Israel and Lebanon. What effect is this having on the Lebanese inside the security zone, and particularly on the SLA?

[Lubrani] Well, of course the whole population on both sides of the border, or the demarcation line of the security zone, are keenly interested about anything concerning progress on the peace process, but I think the

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population and the people and the SLA and others in the security zone are very well aware of what has been laid down by Israel, its two basic conditions without the fulfillment of which it would be impossible for us to make progress, and that is that all the forces, Hizballah and the rest of the terrorist groups arrayed against us, would have their military capabilities dismantled and as having to go through a period of test of time; and the other one is that we will have to be guaranteed that nothing is going to happen and that the population and people in south Lebanon who have been living with us in the area for the last 15 years now will not be exposed to any harassment and any punitive actions if and when there will be a redeployment of our forces. [end recording]

Police Pursue Illegal Palestinian Workers

TA2808064794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpts] In the wake of the killings by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] of two Israeli construction workers in Ramla, police are today launching an operation to arrest all Palestinian laborers working in Israel without permit. Police Minister Moshe Shahal has ordered that an investigation be opened against the employers of the building company in Ramla who hired Palestinian workers.

The government issued a statement last night calling on the Palestinian Authority [PNA] to apprehend the killers of Shlomo Kapah of Holon, and Gil Revah of Bat Yam. For its part, the PNA condemned the attack and said its security service will operate to capture the killers in the autonomy areas. Steve Linde has more details:

[Begin recording] [Linde] [passage omitted] Israeli officials say they expect the Palestinian police in Gaza to search for the killers who operated on behalf of Hamas. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the PNA's information minister, strongly condemned the double murder, and said the Palestinian security operators would act to capture the killers:

['Abd-Rabbuh] We express our sorrow and our condemnation to this incident, and the Palestinian security forces will take their responsibility in order to follow all those who committed this.

[Linde] In Ramla last night, hundreds of Jewish residents took to the streets to vent their anger. They threw, among other things, firebombs and flares, and set alight garbage containers and tires. Three demonstrators were hurt and taken to hospital. Police arrested about 20 other protesters. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew on 28 August at 0505 GMT carries a similar report by Yoni Ben-Menahem adding: "The reports that the Ramla murderers apparently came from the Gaza Strip made the PNA members concerned that Israel might reimpose restrictions on the entry of Gaza laborers to Israel. Yasir 'Arafat immediately ordered the Palestinian security forces to attempt to capture the murderers, if indeed they fled into the autonomy areas." The report adds that "Hamas sources said last night that the murder was carried out inside the Green Line so as not to embarrass the PNA and avoid clashing with it." Finally, the report notes that "The Hamas sources stressed that the organization is now trying to show that, despite the wave of detentions of its activists in the Gaza Strip, Hamas has not stopped perpetrating terror attacks; it has merely moved them to areas outside the PNA's control."]

Arrest 400 Workers

TA2808173694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Police have arrested 400 residents of the territories illegally staying in Israel since Friday's [26 August] stabbing murders in Ramla. The police raided about 1,000 factories and building sites and fined 30 Jews for illegally employing Arabs. Police Minister Shahal said the recent attacks were carried out by Arabs without permits, and the police estimated there were another 10,000 Arabs illegally staying in Israel.

Pakistani Envoy Turned Back at Rafah Checkpoint

TA2808193994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador to Egypt was prevented from entering the Gaza Strip today on orders from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is here in the studio with the initial details:

The incident took place today. For several days, there have been reports that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, an Islamic nuclear power which does not recognize Israel, wishes to visit the Gaza Strip. It was unclear whether she had canceled the visit. Today, Nabil Sha'th telephoned Major General Dani Rothschild and Major General 'Uzi Dayan without any prior notice and announced that the Pakistani ambassador to Egypt was at the Rafah border checkpoint and wished to enter the Gaza Strip in order to prepare for a visit by the Pakistani prime minister next week. The ambassador was accompanied by a delegation for this purpose.

Israel has no diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Such a visit is an important development, and frantic consultations were held all day between Rabin, Peres, and Military Secretary Dani Yatom. It was eventually

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decided not to permit the Pakistani ambassador to Egypt to enter the Gaza Strip until the Palestinians contact Israel through the appropriate channels and clarify whether Pakistan recognizes Israel and whether the Pakistani passports may be stamped by Israeli officials at the checkpoint. Once all this is cleared up satisfactorily, the Pakistanis will probably be allowed entrance. In the meantime, they were respectfully sent back to Cairo.

It appears that contacts on this issue were held over the weekend. The Palestinians subsequently dropped the matter, when the Pakistani ambassador suddenly showed up at the border and was denied entry. I assume that this incident will continue to gather momentum over the coming days, and we shall learn whether the Pakistani prime minister indeed wishes to visit 'Arafat and whether she will cross the Israeli checkpoint, as well as whether the ambassador will be permitted entry.

Foreign Ministry Clarifies Policy on Iraq

TA2608164894 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1124 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem on 26 August]

[Text] In connection to private initiatives involving Iraq—as recently reported by the media—the Foreign Ministry spokesman wishes to clarify that the foreign policy of Israel is managed only by its government. All other initiatives represent only the personal opinions of those behind them.

Israel fully supports the American policy of keeping both Iraq and Iran in check; any initiative which is inconsistent with this policy stands in contradiction to Israeli policy.

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Turkish President Demirel Arrives in Amman

JN2808083194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency Turkish President Suleyman Demirel arrived in Amman this morning on a one-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials.

The talks will deal with the friendly bilateral relations and means of fostering and developing them in various fields. Talks will also focus on issues of common interest on the regional and international levels, especially Middle East issues and developments related to the Middle East peace process.

His Majesty King Husayn led those who received Jordan's prominent guest. Also on hand to receive him were His Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince, and a number of ranking officials.

Holds Talks With King Husayn

JN2808175894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey left Amman this afternoon, ending a brief visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and top Jordanian officials on relations between the two friendly countries and regional and world issues of shared interest, with special emphasis on the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn and his excellency the Turkish president met at Raghadan Palace at noon today, in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. A further expanded session was held with the participation of top officials on both sides.

The sides exchanged views on regional and world issues of shared interest, with special emphasis on the peace process.

The Turkish president emphasized his country's support for the Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and Israel on 25 August. He voiced his admiration and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's wise stands on various regional and world issues, and cited Jordan's call for a just, durable, and comrpehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council resolutions. His country, added the Turkish president, shares the desire of the region's states to promote a just, durable, and comprehensive peace. Turkey will try to create the right economic climate for development in the region and buttressing the foundations of peace and stability, Mr. Demirel stated.

Husayn-Demirel News Conference

JN2808163694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 28 Aug 94

[News conference by King Husayn of Jordan and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, with unidentified correspondents unless otherwise indicated; at Basman Palace in Amman on 28 August—recorded in English; passages in italics in Arabic]

[Text] [Husayn]*In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On behalf of every Jordanian I welcome my brother, President Suleyman Demirel, on this visit. We are pleased that he has paid such a visit to Amman. He is a big, beloved brother and a close friend. I am certain of the noble feelings he harbors for this country in terms of his pride in the friendship and fraternal relations between us, his holding in esteem this country's stands and the readiness to support it in all fields. All these considerations reassure us that the march will be further enhanced in the future as partners, brothers, and as friends to achieve our objectives and goals for a promising future, God willing.*

Sir, I would like to, on behalf of every Jordanian and for myself, say how honored we are and how happy and proud to receive you here with us here, today, sir, as a dear brother, an old friend, and the president of Turkey. We are so proud of the friendship and relations that unite us, the fact that we are brothers. I am so appreciative of the opportunity you gave us to visit with us and to speak with us, sir, about all that is happening in our region in terms of the present and the future.

We are deeply in your debt for the support of Turkey, the understanding, and we are equally committed to work together in all fields and areas in the times ahead as partners, brethren, and friends. This is indeed, sir, a flying visit, but I hope that all of us in Jordan will have the honor of receiving you in the near future for a longer visit, sir, so that you can see a Jordan, a second home, and so that we can carry out some of what is in our hearts toward you and toward Turkey as a people in honoring you amongst us, and hopefully, you will always feel, both now and in the future, some of the feeling that I have always had whenever I had been in Turkey. I thank you sir, and once again you are welcome.

[Demirel] Thank you. Your majesty the king, my brother, dear brother, it is a great pleasure for me to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, even if it is a very short visit. I am very glad to state that it has been very fruitful. The talks we had today reconfirmed the existence of the strong political will of both parties to further promote bilateral relations between the two countries. We also examined the need for continuous political dialogue to better evaluate and coordinate our efforts in the search for peace throughout the region and the world.

Turkey warmly welcomes the results emanating from the meeting of His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel in Washington on July 25, 1994. This meeting, and the prior talks between Jordanian and Israeli representatives, represents another major breakthrough in the peace process. We are following the peace process with great interest and supporting all initiatives directed toward its accomplishment. We are looking forward to the establishment of

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permanent peace in the Middle East. That is what I [words indistinct] that we are with the peace process, we are supporting the Jordan, and that we believe in the peace process and that there will be stability and peace in the region.

This opened up the door to interaction and cooperation among countries of the region. That means a multidimensional development. And then it would be beneficial to all countries, economic and social development of all countries. The course of cooperation will help strengthen ties between the peoples of the Middle East. It will build bridges between people who have lived in hostility throughout a long period in history.

In our discussions, we decided to continue to work for the achievement of this golden opportunity. We are, therefore, firmly committed to contribute to the accomplishment of just and lasting peace in the region.

The ties that bind Turkey and Jordan are based on common cultural and historical values and are reinforced with brotherly relations that have been further developed between our peoples in the recent history of our two modern states. Both Turkey and Jordan share similar goals in their respective foreign policy lines in the Middle East. Both of them strive to achieve their economic and social development while they continue to exert all efforts to contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

During our discussion, we also renewed the possibilities for further development of our bilateral relations to the mutual benefit of the two countries, as well as [word indistinct] the entire region. I believe that these consultations have contributed to a better understanding of one another's view that are as a matter of fact almost identical. It was also reassuring for both parties to observe such harmony in our respective positions related to international issues. I am sure our bilateral relations will develop in a very fast way and that our business people are very much interested in the region. And then we believe in Turkish-Jordanian relations. They are friendly, brotherly, and then it has a potential. And I wish success to his majesty and then I wish success to Jordanian people and in the way they are going and for the prosperity and for the peace of Jordanian people. Thank you.

[Hammad] Jordan Television correspondent Murid Hammad. Mr. President: Do you...[pauses] You've mentioned development and inter-regional cooperation as part of the Middle East peace process and the movement towards peace in the region. Does Turkey, or do you personally, Mr. President, have any particular ideas to contribute to the regional issues, particularly with regards to water, for example?

[Demirel] There is a peace process. Turkey is involved in every part of the peace process, in the committees, and other things. Turkey is not a negotiating party. But, if there is any help we can be useful, definitely, we will give all the support for the development of the peace. But, I cannot tell you anything in specific because we are not the negotiating party.

[Ni'mat] Salamah Ni'mat, correspondent of AL-HAYAH newspaper. Your Majesty: During the Gulf crisis, Jordan took a balanced position in the conflict. And because of its geographical position, many observers believe that Jordan is in a position now to play a role in bringing back Iraq into the international community. Is Jordan prepared from its side to take such a role in the near future?

[Husayn] I believe that in terms of Iraq, we have a very serious and continued concern for the integrity of Iraq and for the alleviation of the suffering of the people of Iraq. We certainly hope that we will see Iraq once again vital in terms of this region, and hopefully a part of its development in the present and the future. And, as far as Jordan and Turkey are concerned, I believe that we are both neighbors of Iraq and we both are also affected by this continued situation in an adverse way. Our hopes are that somehow this situation will come to a satisfactory conclusion before too long.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: I have a question about Iraq. You have a Turkish delegation actually visiting Iraq since yesterday—of businessmen. Could you tell me please—my question: Are you satisfied with the way Iraq has complied with the UN resolution? What is the position of Turkey about that?

[Demirel] Well, Turkey cannot act alone. But, just as all the countries are trying to make trade with Iraq, not only Turkey, if someone goes further, and they, someone should see many other countries trying to make trade. [sentence as heard] And then actually, there is sanctions, and then if the sanctions is not lifted, Turkey is not going to act alone.

But we do believe that the sanctions should be lifted, sooner or later, and then Iraq should be a part of the international community. And then, actually, if Iraq is isolated—continues to be isolated—and the territorial integrity of Iraq is to be very difficult to keep together, and, therefore, a new problem shouldn't be created, more difficult problems shouldn't be created. As soon as possible, Iraq should be a part of the international community, and as soon as possible, the sanctions are to be lifted. Then this is a preparation for Turkey. [sentence as heard]

[Dib] I am Layla Dib from [word indistinct] the financial news, and we are specialized in oil. What is the position on the oil pipeline now and the overland route for trade with Iraq?

[Demirel] Pipeline is carrying a hundred [words indistinct] tons of crude a year; it is a peaceful program. And, then it is going to be corroded, and then if another six months, the pipeline is kept closed, the pipeline is going to be destroyed. And, in the first place, the pipeline

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should be saved. Several hundred million dollars invested in the pipeline. And, therefore, we are trying to get the approval of the United Nations Security Council that the pipeline should be flushed. And, then what will happen to the oil coming out of the pipeline, that is the problem being discussed now. Everybody agrees that the pipeline is to be flushed. But, there are about some 11 million barrels of oil, then it has to be repeated a couple of times, say, 30 million barrels of oil. You'd make about $400, 500 million. And, then, that's the way how this money is going to be used, $400 to 500 million. And, some of that belongs to Turkey, actually. But we are sure that very soon this pipeline will be flushed.

[Correspondent] Your majesty, a month has passed since you signed the peace declaration in Washington. What is your assessment of the course of events, and are you satisfied with the pace of developments, or do you have some fear that the Israelis might be showing some intransigence on land and borders?

[Husayn] I don't believe that one can say that there is any aspect of the negotiations that comes as a surprise or that should give us the impression that things are not going according to schedule, and the possibilities of both parties to negotiate and resolve all the items that are on the agenda, all the items that we have agreed to try to approach. [sentence as heard] Obviously, very important to us is the question of the border delineation and demarcation, the question of water, together with all the other problems that are there, and I think that the atmosphere in good. I believe that progress is being made, and I hope that it will continue, so there is no reason for skepticism. But, it is fairly obvious, and we made it very, very clear from the outset, that all these problems cannot be resolved overnight. They will take time and hard work, and I believe this is what's happening.

[Hattar] Your excellency, Sa'd Hattar, Agence France Presse. The trade balance between Jordan and Turkey is in favor of the latter. Have you discussed in your talks with his majesty the king the prospects of increasing Jordanian imports to Turkey?

[Demirel] That's today. Tomorrow it might be different. But we did not discuss that matter. You know, if you have trade with a country, sometimes you can have in red, sometimes you can be in black; that's natural. But, we are willing to increase our trade involvement

[Husayn] I think the doors are all open and everything is [words indistinct] determination to move ahead.

[Nabil] Lima Nabil from AL-RA'Y newspaper. A follow-up question concerning my colleague's question: How will Turkey, concerning the water issue, how will Jordan benefit from this matter?

[Demirel] Which matters?

[Nabil] The water issue, the water pipes.

[Demirel] It is not the water pipe we are talking about.

[Nabil] Water, water.

[Husayn]*The president is talking about...*

[Nabil, interrupting] What about the water pipes?

[Demirel] Well, we did not discuss any water pipe, actually, but we discussed that there is plenty of water in southern part of Turkey flowing to the sea, and then we are going to manage it. It can be loaded to the ships and then carried within next six months or year, and then, actually there will be fresh water in Turkey for sale. And if anyone wants, they can buy fresh water—in the Black Sea, in the Mediterranean Sea. I mean, not only oil, but water is being sold now.

But if you are talking about the pipeline which will go from Turkey to the southern part of Syria and Jordan, then to Saudi Arabia, it is just in thought, just in thought. It is not designed, then it is not, for the time being. It will take about more $10 billion. It is a big investment, for the time being. It may be in the future.

[Husayn] Okay? Thank very, very much indeed.

[Demirel] Thank you.

King Husayn Discusses Peace, Jerusalem

JN2808150494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized his confidence that Jordan's efforts to realize peace will help advance the process of comprehensive peace in the region. He hoped positive developments will take place on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

His majesty said the clause in the Washington Declaration regarding Jerusalem is a reaffirmation of the real situation. The side we fought has recognized Jordan's role in Jerusalem on behalf of the Islamic world. This is a responsible role that we will continue to play, with no intention of competing with or imposing our presence on anyone.

On the Turkish president's current visit to Jordan, his majesty said Jordanian-Turkish relations are close. There are joint issues the two countries want to develop. He said the talks between the two sides will deal with the peace process and water in the region, in addition to developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans.

In an interview with the Qatari News Agency conducted by the agency's director general and chief editor Ahmad Jasim, his majesty said Jordanian-Qatari relations are excellent. The same is the case with Jordan's relations with the Sultanate of Oman. He said Jordan's relations with other brothers are witnessing the start of relaxation and a return to normalcy on the basis of the joint march.

Asked if progress on the Jordanian track with the Israeli side will affect other tracks, especially the Syrian and

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Lebanese tracks, his majesty said: Everyone is eager to reach a comprehensive peace in this region. Regarding the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, a move seems to be under way. His majesty also said: In fact, Egypt, which is the big sister and which led the Arab nation, its potential, and its armies in most of the battles we waged, has pursued the path of peace. The Palestinian side has also moved. What applies to the Palestinian and Jordanian sides also applies to the Syrian and Lebanese sides. We all moved at the same time and from the same point.

In light of Madrid and its outcome, and due to the special relationship between Syria and Lebanon, I believe the opportunities available to the brothers in Syria and Lebanon are better than ours. There are circumstances that may illuminate a situation that differs from ours, in terms of our demands and what we are trying to achieve. It is unreasonable for us to wait until all issues are resolved, because this country is targeted, in practice. This country has also suffered more than any other country. It does not rely on any near or far power regarding its positions, except its right and its insistence on regaining that right.

His majesty also explained that Jordan's role in caring for the Islamic sanctities continued despite the fall of Jerusalem to occupation in 1967. Jordan, he said, supervised the holy places, the Islamic awqaf, and the Islamic courts. It continued to carry out that duty after 1974, when the Palestinian Arab people chose their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, during the Rabat summit conference at that time. He added: This was the nation's decision. It did not encroach on our responsibilities toward the Islamic sanctities. On the contrary, we were asked to continue to play our role and carry out our duty toward it.

His Majesty King Husayn said that what happened in Washington recently was that we raised a certain topic in view of the importance of Jerusalem and out of our belief that there should be no agreement on any formula that ignores the issue of Jerusalem. His Majesty King Husayn reiterated his call for working as much as possible for the sake of city of Jerusalem, which is important to all those who worship God, the followers of Abraham's three religions. We should, if we can in any form, make the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem only for almighty God.

His majesty denied that the question of Jerusalem was a problem. The Palestinians are our kinsfolk and brothers, so there is no problem over this or any other issue. Assuming a problem exists, this is only at the leadership level. We would like it to be known that, throughout, we were the initiators of coordination, both with the Palestinians and with other Arabs.

It is irresponsible to say there is coordination when none exists. We very much hope to get to the point where there is true coordination. We hate to be in a situation where lip service is paid to coordination, and then, once talks end, we go back to square one.

Asked about the talks held recently with a Palestinian delegation in Amman, his majesty said the two sides recognized the need for coordination and cooperation and to start to address substantive matters.

On Jordan's role in the peace era against the backdrop of the end of the state of war with Israel and the emergence of a self-expressive Palestinian entity, his majesty stressed that Jordan was willing to extend all possbile support to the brother Palestinians. Jordanian-Palestinian relations are distinguished and will remain so, his majesty declared. However, his majesty added, it is premature to begin looking for a formula that defines future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians. Only once our kinsfolk regain their freedom and rights on their national soil can this matter be addressed. Hopefully, they will then be able to express their will in an environment of democracy, shura, and human rights. We will respect whatever they choose, his majesty said. We are one family in Jordan, where we do not differentiate between citizens of Palestinian or Jordanian descent, or any other descent for that matter. Throughout its history, Jordan has been the homeland of free people, the haven for brother Arabs and others, his majesty stressed. It is the land of the muhajirin [Palestinians] and ansar [Jordanians; muhajirin were early Meccan Muslims who travelled to Medina seeking refuge from harassment]. This state of affairs will prevail until circumstances permit any individual willing to part company with us to do so. As for now, we resist any effort to hurt our national unity, so we can advance this country's steadfastness and hence Palestinian interests and rights.

His majesty was asked how serious and credible he thought Israel was in relation to the effort to attain a just and comprehensive peace. Judging by how things have gone thus far, his majesty said he believed the beginnings look good. There is nothing negative, despite the fact that the first round of the talks have not produced results yet. However, we did agree on how to proceed in the future, particularly regarding border demarcation, his majesty said.

His majesty the king described the atmosphere at the talks as good, positive, and satisfactory. It should be possible to report good results soon, his majesty stated.

He said he hoped the Iraqi people's suffering will come to an end. It is inconceivable that this state of affairs should continue for much longer. Iraq is an important part of the region, whose national unity must be safeguarded, his majesty said.

On his forthcoming visits to Germany and France, his majesty said Jordan has good relations with both. He hoped the two countries will help out regarding Jordan's debts.

Asked about reports that there may be a government reshuffle or a change of government in Jordan, his majesty said neither option is warranted at present.

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Asked about his much-heralded visit to Jerusalem, His Majesty King Husayn said no date has yet been set for the visit. I have no need for anybody's approval of my visit to Jerusalem, his majesty declared. I will go as a Hashemite, Arab, and Joranian Arab. I have the right to go to Jerusalem; it is as simple as that.

King Husayn Departs for Germany, France

JN2808182494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] His majesty the king left Amman on brief working visits to Germany and France for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand. The talks will deal with latest developments related to the Middle East peace process and bilateral ties, as well as means of developing economic cooperation between Jordan and Germany and France respectively. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 28 August reports that "King Husayn of Jordan's plane today passed through Israeli airspace for the second time. Piloted by the Jordanian monarch himself, the plane had taken off from Amman en route to Europe. It overflew central Israel. Our correspondent notes that due to technical problems that have yet to be worked out between Israel and Jordan, Royal Jordanian Airlines has not yet operated flights from or to Amman International Airport through Israeli airspace."]

King's Tour, Ties With Turkey, Qatar Viewed

JN2908084794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Jordan's Constant Positions and Regional, International Changes"]

[Excerpt] With the start of King Husayn's European tour and the end of his majesty's talks with His Excellency Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Jordan reaffirms its serious efforts to achieve a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace. The Washington Declaration represents the main cornerstone in Jordan's moves toward achieving peace based on international legitimacy and implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

European countries—especially Germany, France, and Britain—play a vital and supportive role in the peace process. These parties' support is a basis for reaping the fruits of peace in terms of prosperity and development.

King Husayn embarks on this European tour while enjoying the respect and appreciation of these countries on both the official and popular levels. At the same time, Turkey—an Islamic country and a neighbor to Europe—also has close ties with Jordan and both friendly countries share common issues and interests. As the Turkish president said yesterday, both countries share political, economic, and social goals that fall within the same regional framework and are linked by close ties and common interests.

Jordan and Turkey are also neighbors of Iraq and are being negatively affected by the continued tragic situation there. Therefore, during the joint news conference with President Demirel, King Husayn emphasized the integrity of Iraq, ending the suffering of its people, and focusing on the role Iraq would play in the future.

The leader of the homeland, whose heart is full of love for the Iraqi people, as well as for all Arabs, spoke with utter loyalty when he told the Qatari News Agency that Iraq has always been with us.

Jordan—which endured the suffering and was subjected to pressure and siege for championing the nation and for its insistence on protecting the region from the repercussions of the destructive tragedy as a result of the Gulf crisis—did not change and did not bargain over its principles and commitment to the nation's issues. This sound stand is becoming clear to some brothers who began to understand the Jordanian stand. Also, signs of improvement in relations have begun to appear. Moreover, practical steps toward the restoration of normal relations are being achieved. Jordanian-Qatari relations are a good example of this. [passage omitted]

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Buwayz Denies Report on Contacts With Israel

NC2708063394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Lebanon and Israel denied yesterday an Israeli press report about the existence of secret contacts between the two countries and about the Lebanese Government's intention to start negotiations with Israel, following the Jordanian example, in order to reach peace quickly while delaying the signing until Syria signs a treaty with Israel. This report was published by the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: We have not seen any Israeli to know whether there is a proposal or not. The Americans have not talked to us about holding secret negotiations.

The Israeli denial was voiced by an Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman. He said that no talks have been held between Israel and Lebanon since the last round of negotiations held in Washington last February. He added there is no change in the Israeli stand on future agreements with Lebanon.

Also commenting on President Bill Clinton's call to lift the Arab embargo on Israeli products, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: The lifting of this embargo is premature.

Hizballah Said To Arrest Member for Aiding Israel

NC2808171694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Citing a source close to Hizballah, AFP reports that two weeks ago the Hizballah security units arrested Muhammad Ahmad al-Dirani, cousin of Mustafa al-Dirani. The source said that his wife assisted in the arrest of the traitor, as she put it.

Meanwhile, a relative of Mustafa al-Dirani issued a statement accusing Muhammad al-Dirani of helping the Israelis to kidnap Mustafa. He said that Muhammad al-Dirani sold himself cheaply and admitted his agentry to the Zionists.

Reported Execution Denied

NC2708130694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Beirut, 27 Aug (MENA)—Hizballah sources today denied claims that Hizballah had sentenced one of its own members to death for leaking information concerning the whereabouts of Shaykh Mustafa al-Dirani, an official in the Islamic Resistance who was kidnapped by Israeli commandos from his house near Ba'labakk, a city in northeast Lebanon, in May of this year. According to the sources, no one was sentenced to death, but Hizballah is interrogating a number of suspects.

In a television interview a few days ago, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said that Hizballah is not infiltrated by Israeli agents. He admitted that Hizballah is holding a number of suspects for interrogation, but did not reveal their identities or affiliations. Nasrallah said that these suspects will be handed over to Lebanese security authorities in due course.

Controversy Over Palestinian Housing Plan Reported

Junblatt Threatens To Close Ministry

NC2708120094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Remarks by Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following his visit to the Papal Legate in Harisa on 27 Aug—recorded]

[Text] [Junblatt] I came to extend my condolences to Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente on the death of his mother and for no other reason.

[Correspondent] Did you touch on specific political issues?

[Junblatt] I came only to extend my condolences, and we talked a little about the issue of the hour, that is, this tempest in a teapot. I reiterate and stress that the issue that was raised and that engendered deep feelings of racism and political hatred among the majority of the Lebanese political class is a humanitarian issue. Let them find a humanitarian and appropriate solution for the Palestinians without all this ridiculous talk about resettlement and I am ready to listen. I found the solution in my own way and they erupted. Let them come and return these Palestinians to Tall al-Za'tar, al-Dubayyah, Jisr al-Basha, and the other areas where they originally lived. I will not object.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in view of the opposition to housing Palestinians in al-Qulay'ah, will this plan be halted if it is raised before the cabinet and some ministers oppose it?

[Junblatt] All the Refugee Affairs Ministry's activities will cease then, be they concerned with rehousing in Beirut or elsewhere.

[Correspondent] Then you are insisting on your program even if the cabinet wants to end it?

[Junblatt] Do you have another solution? We have the right humanitarian solution, which is also beneficial from the security and social aspects. We contacted in the past the patriarch and Nu'man [not further identified] in the Kislik through Antoine Andrawus, director of the displaced persons fund, about the issue of the Palestinian Christians—and I regret to speak like that now—who used to live in al-Dubayyah. They refused. With the cooperation of the Catholic patriarchate, we found a

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piece of land in Kafr Shima. So what do I do with the others and what will happen to them?

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, some people have fears.

[Junblatt] These are humanitarian issues [words indistinct]. If you have the solution, then give it to me. We are talking about a humanitarian solution and not about granting citizenship to the Palestinians. They and we reject this. We are giving a humanitarian solution that has to do with housing, no more and no less. Is there an objection? This is the law of human rights. The whole world acts today when a tragedy occurs in Rwanda or elsewhere. The latest drama was the French presence in Rwanda and the French withdrawal later. Here we have a humanitarian issue.

[Correspondent] Do you support those who are opposed to the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon?

[Junblatt] We are all against settlement [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Is it merely a humanitarian issue?

[Junblatt] It is no more and no less than a humanitarian issue. If you have a solution, then you and the brothers in the right-wing parties can go to King Husayn and let him grant citizenship to the Palestinians or settle them in al-'Aqabah camp or go to Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to take them in Gaza. If this is the solution, then do so.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do you see a demographic imbalance? [Words indistinct] lodged a complaint with the consultative council about the Lebanese identity?

[Junblatt] By God, what is this thinking about the basis for Lebanese identity? They look at the issue from the angle of blood ties and we look at it from the angle of territory. This will take us into another long talk about what is called the theory of national affiliation. We have much to say about national affiliation.

[Correspondent] Some people criticize you for sidestepping the al-Ta'if accord. Do you support the implementation of the accord?

[Junblatt] How did I sidestep the al-Ta'if accord? I raised the issue of the displaced Palestinians in Beirut, al-Shuf, and Sidon one year ago but no one responded. We have reached the test when the Refugee Affairs Ministry began to evacuate the displaced persons from central Beirut. If the plan is stopped, then I will halt all activities and close the ministry. What will happen then?

Defense Minister Comments

NC2708121694 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has commented on the subject of housing the Palestinians in Iqlim al-Kharrub by saying: What do we do with the Palestinians? Can we dump tens of thousands of them on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees? He affirmed that he opposes resettlement, but clarified that housing the Palestinians is different than resettling them in Lebanon. He said: By housing them, we would be eliminating and confining resettlement. He drew attention to the fact that the Palestinians themselves reject resettlement, because it goes against their goal of returning to their homeland. In an interview with RFL carried within the "Official Talk" program, the defense minister said that Bkirki is a major spiritual center, which is not only important to the Maronites but to all the Lebanese. He affirmed that the patriarch's visit to Syria is very beneficial and that he should not have waited for an invitation to visit. [passage omitted]

On naturalization, Dallul said the topic has not been closed. Whoever wishes to be naturalized can do so, regardless of his sect. He added: It is not a catastrophe if the number of naturalized people from one sect is more than those in another sect, because the issue is not one of number. Numbers are of no consequence whatsoever. Had they been, Lebanon's image would have been changed a long time ago. He said he did not defend private media because he does not believe such media mean freedom. He added that the proof of this is that the private media have once again picked up their fabricated, false, and tendentious campaigns. He believes these campaigns harm the march toward national peace and reconstruction, development, and our lifestyle. He said that freedom is not supposed to be a goal, but a means; otherwise, it turns into a form of blackmail. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul strongly defended Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He denied that al-Hariri is imposing his hegemony on the government. He stressed the need to keep this particular government in office, as well as Prime Minister al-Hariri, who has inspired confidence, according to him. He believes that those people harmed by the stability in the country are the ones criticizing him. He noted that criticisms are uncalled for so long as there is no alternative to al-Hariri. [passage omitted]

On the peace process, the defense minister noted that there has been some progress, but not to the extent that we can claim to have entered a stage of peace. He said: The citizen should not live in either an optimistic or a pessimistic atmosphere, but in an atmosphere of caution. He believes that all the accomplishments on the various tracks so far have not brought about peace. He said that the Lebanese and Syrians are the ones who will bring about this peace.

PLO Official on Resettlement

NC2908092294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Amid acute divisions in the cabinet over the issue of housing the Palestinians in al-Quray'ah, fanned by

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Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt's successive statements, it seems that the Palestinian story is only the tip of the iceberg. What has not been revealed involves plans serving the interests of both Junblatt and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who returned to Beirut from Nice last night. Junblatt himself hinted at these projects when he stressed that there is a holy alliance between himself and al-Hariri. What Junblatt did not mention is the talk in political and information circles that have for some time linked the project of housing the Palestinians to other building projects involving al-Hariri. The most important of these projects is the one to remove the Palestinian refugee camps from Beirut to clear the southern approach to the city as part of a plan to promote the Solidaire Company and eliminate the Palestinian demographic burden.

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon this morning, Salah Salah, member of the PLO political leadership and official in charge of political affairs in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, disclosed that there is a plan similar to that of al-Quray'ah to house the Palestinians after removing the refugee camps from the Beirut area to beautify the city. He revealed another scandal: 27,000 Palestinians have been naturalized after the latest naturalization decree. Our colleague Sa'd Ilyas conducted the following interview with the Palestinian official:

[Begin recording] [Ilyas] It is said that under the cover of resolving the Palestinian refugees' social and humanitarian problems the Palestinians might in the long run be resettled.

[Salah] We can discuss a current problem and see how it can be solved. But regarding future political plans for the Palestinians, I share the fears of those who believe that there is a serious policy to abolish the national identity of the Palestinian people through resettlement, naturalization, deportation, emigration, or compensation. There is an integrated plan being currently promoted by several parties before the issue of refugees is raised in 1996 in the final stage of negotiations. These are legitimate fears. The Palestinians and Lebanese are required to cooperate to confront these plans that aim at abolishing the Palestinian people's national identity and depriving them of their right to return to their homeland.

[Ilyas] Don't you think that the current move by Minister Junblatt and Prime Minister al-Hariri might be a plan that will serve as a prelude to resettling the Palestinians?

[Salah] Resettlement of the Palestinians is a political decision that requires approval by the Palestinians to give up their homeland and agree to settle in an alternative homeland. This is the crux of the problem. It is a political decision. Improving the social and civilian conditions of the Palestinian people does not mean a resettlement of them. These measures, however, might be exploited in the future to resettle them. I appeal to all those concerned—both Palestinians and Lebanese of all orientations—to meet at a round table to discuss all political, social, and civilian aspects of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and the policies being pursued that may lead to resettling the Palestinians.

[Ilyas] There is talk about a plan similar to that of the al-Quray'ah to move the Palestinians living in al-Awza'i to the al-Shuf coast.

[Salah] Yes. A long time ago the idea was raised to move the camps from the Beirut area to another area as part of a plan to beautify the city. According to this plan, several quarters, including the camps, would have to be moved. At the time we opposed this idea and offered to the officials who put it forward to change it. They asked us our opinion of rebuilding the camps in high-rise, popular buildings. At the time we expressed readiness to discuss it because it was reasonable and served the purpose of beautifying Beirut on the one hand and.... [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Ilyas] There are fears that after resettling the Palestinians they might be naturalized. We want to ask how many Palestinians have been naturalized in Lebanon.

[Salah] I estimate that between 75,000 and 100,000 people have been naturalized since 1948.

[Ilyas] Do you expect the number of naturalized Palestinians to increase, particularly after plans to house them in al-Quray'ah?

[Salah] This has to do with Lebanese laws, which may or may not allow granting Lebanese citizenship to more Palestinians.

[Ilyas] Are you for giving the Palestinians Lebanese citizenship?

[Salah] Definitely not. We are opposed to resettling or naturalizing the Palestinians or to any measure that might deprive us of our right to return to our homeland, Palestine.

[Ilyas] How many Palestinians were naturalized after the latest naturalization law?

[Salah] As far as I know, approximately 27,000 Palestinians were naturalized in seven villages. [end recording]

The recent naturalization of Palestinians is a big scandal for the officials who affirmed on the day the naturalization decree was issued that their main concern was to ensure the rights of the Lebanese citizens who have been deprived of citizenship for many years. The question remains how the names of these Palestinians sneaked onto the lists of naturalized Lebanese. The officials have to respond to this question and explain the facts.

PFLP, DFLP Support Junblatt

NC2908095794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] The Unified Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic

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Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Lebanon has stated that Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt's statement on buying a piece of land to build houses and replace a destroyed camp "represents a practical effort toward a sound solution." The command praised Junblatt's initiative and called for permission to begin reconstructing destroyed homes in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. It called on the PLO to do its duty toward the Palestinian people.

The command emphasized its rejection of all resettlement plans and attempts to abolish Palestinian identity and national rights through displacement and emigration. It said that maintaining the Palestinian communities in the camps is one of the requirements of safeguarding the national rights of the Palestinians struggling to return to their homeland, determine their future, and establish an independent state.

The command expressed confidence that our Palestinian families' social ordeal will find a fair solution within the framework of the Lebanese-Palestinian fraternity, which will enhance cohesion between the forces of the two peoples in the continuing confrontation with the oppressive Israeli occupation.

Further Reactions Reported

NC2908102494

[Editorial Report] Lebanese radios continue to report mixed reactions, but mostly unfavorable ones, to a plan from the Refugees Affairs Ministry to build new houses for some 15,000 Palestinians displaced during Lebanon's civil war.

In its newscast at 0445 GMT on 29 August, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic cites "sources close to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri" as saying that he will call his ministers, who seem to be divided over the plan, to a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the subject.

Information Minister Michel Samahah continues his outspoken criticism of the plan and its champion, Refugees Minister Walid Junblatt. Commenting on Junblatt's statement that he will close his ministry if the plan is halted, Samahah is cited by the radio report as saying: "No one can close the Refugees Ministry, which belongs to the Lebanese people and was established to return the Lebanese who were displaced during the events." Samahah is further quoted as saying that: "Lebanon is not responsible for the future of the Palestinian refugees."

The radio reports that France-based Lebanese opposition figures have joined in the debate, voicing sharp criticism of the plan and the government policy. Former President Amin al-Jumayyil is cited as telling the Beirut-based NIDA' AL-WATAN that the situation is "very serious." He reportedly "likens today's atmosphere to that of 1975," and says that "things are going in the direction of partition." For his part, General Michel 'Awn, the former prime minister, "expresses fear that Lebanon may be completely removed and its people displaced." He calls on the Lebanese "to attack the existing regime, but not with bullets."

Continuing his challenge and apparently referring to criticism of the plan by Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush, Junblatt says in a statement to Radio Free Lebanon on 28 August, as reported by the radio in its 0445 GMT newscast on 29 August, that "he will not close the Refugees Ministry and will work as he pleases." He reportedly adds: "Let those who do not like this, Fattush or others, do whatever they can do." Junblatt is further cited as saying that he and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri are in "a holy alliance."

The radio report, on the other hand, notes some support for Junblatt: "The transport minister joins those who support Minister Junblatt in his effort to solve the problem of the displaced Palestinians. He considers this effort to be at the heart of the authority of the minister of refugees affairs."

The radio also reports Palestinian support for the plan: "PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas welcomes Minister Junblatt's step, praising the justice of his decision and criticizing the opposition expressed by some sides, which he does not name, which consider the housing of Palestinians to be the beginning of resettlement in Lebanon." In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0315 GMT on 29 August adds: "The PLO describes Minister Junblatt's decision as right and courageous."

Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic, in its 0530 GMT newscast on 29 August, cites Hizballah Consultative Council Member Shaykh Muhammd Yazbik as saying: "We reject the settlement because we want the Palestinian people to return to their land and the occupier to leave that land. We want the humanitarian problem to be solved, but without this leading to settlement."

Hizballah Announces Member's Death

NC2508113094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1108 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk: A Hizballah spokesman a short while ago announced that a member of the Islamic Resistance was killed during a resistance attack against the area of Sujud, which controls the central sector of south Lebanon.

The spokesman pointed out that the Islamic Resistance fired artillery at four positions belonging to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] at dawn today. The shells reached Marj 'Uyun, where the headquarters of the SLA is located. However, the attacks did not result in any injuries among SLA elements.

Israeli warplanes are currently flying low-altitude sorties over al-Nabatiyah. The planes broke the sound barrier several times. Moreover, the Israeli forces bombarded the areas of Tallat Mlita, Jabal al-Rafi', and Jabal Safi between 1300 and 1330 [1000-1030 GMT] today.

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Ruling Coalition Reported To Win Elections

NC2708193094 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Aug 27 (AFP)—Syria's ruling coalition, the National Progressive Front (NPF), won the latest legislative election comfortably, according to official figures published Saturday [27 August].

The seven-party coalition, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad's Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, won 167 of the 250 seats in the People's Assembly, compared with 166 in the 1990 elections.

All the NPF candidates were elected, taking 66.8 percent of the seats.

Almost 3.7 million people voted on Wednesday and Thursday, accounting for 50.33 percent of the electorate compared to 49.63 percent in 1990, Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah said Friday.

Independent candidates won 83 seats. Women won 24 seats, compared with 21 in 1990. In Damascus 10 seats were won by industrialists and rich traders.

The poll was conducted according to a first-past-the-post system, the winning candidates being those gaining the most votes on a list. It was the sixth legislative election to be held since al-Asad came to power in a coup in 1970.

Assembly Election Results Reported

JN2708194894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 94

["Full recording" of a news conference by Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah with unidentified correspondents to announce results of elections for the sixth legislative term of the Syrian People's Assembly, in Damascus on 27 August]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

We now read the names of winners of the People's Assembly elections:

Decree No. 1256/Mim/Mim:

In accordance with the provisions of the General Elections Law issued by Legislative Decree No. 26 of 14 April 1973 and its amendments, particularly those related to Clause 46; Decree No. 62 of 23 July 1994 which sets the date for the election of the People's Assembly members for the sixth legislative term of 1994; the reports submitted by the central committees of the Constituencies of the Syrian Arab Republic; and the report submitted by the committee that was formed by our administrative notice No. 173 S/Kh of 25 July 1994, the minister of interior decrees as follows:

Article One: The final results of the General People's elections for the sixth legislative term, which were held on 24 August 1994, shall be announced. The following candidates are considered winners of these elections. They are listed according to the number of votes each won in his/her sector.

Damascus Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
- Najwa Sa'd-al-Din Qassab Hasan
- 'Abd-al-Razzaq Salih Aqbiq
- Faruq Muhammad Thuraya
- Muhammad Misbah 'Abduh Baghdadi
- Amal Hamdi Dakkak
- 'Abd-al-Qadir Ibrahim Haqqi Qaddurah
- Nabil Salim Dawud
- Muhammad Marwan Mahmud Shiku
- Basil Milad Dahduh
- Muhammad Yasir 'Abd-al-Mawla Mahlawi

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
- Muhammad Shakir 'Abd-al-Razzaq Is'ayyid
- Misbah 'Abd-al-Qadir Ghaybah
- Ilyas Kamil Nijmah
- Fathi Hamdi Qanawati
- Mahmud Raghib Qassumi
- Jalal-al-Din 'Abduh Idlibi
- 'Ali Subhi al-Turkmani
- Firyal Bashir al-Mahayni
- Muhammad 'Adnan Sa'id al-Khatib
- Wisal Muhammad 'Ali Farhah
- Riyad Musallam Sayf
- Muhammad Ma'mun 'Arif al-Himsi
- Hashim Anwar 'Aqqad
- Baha'-al-Din Muhammad al-Hasan
- Muhammad 'Umar Ihsan Sanqar
- Badir Fathi Fallah
- Basil Ahmad al-Hamwi
- 'Adnan Muhammad 'Izzat Dakhakhin
- Colette Suhayl Khuri

Governorate of Damascus Rural Area Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
- Hilal Khalid Rizq
- 'Umar Mahmud al-Shalit
- Zahir Ra'is Abu-Khulayf
- Hamdan Khalid Khushayni
- Hind Muhammad Jijan
- Sabah Muhyi-al-Din 'Awad
- Ilyas Habib Murad
- Muhammad Jamil Dhiyab
- Mahmud Muhammad Dhiyab
- 'Ali Ghazi Khadra

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
- Muhammad Khayr Mustafa al-Samil
- Salih Muhyi-al-Din al-Qadiri
- 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mahmud al-Qalish
- 'Abd-al-Karim Mahmud al-Khuli
- Mustafa Muhammad Rida al-Tujjar
- 'Ali Muhammad Qabalan
- 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id al-Ahmar
- Ahmad Muhammad al-Turk
- 'Ali Mustafa Milhim

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City of Aleppo Constituency:
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Rashid Ahmad Akhtarini
Ahmad Muhammad Nuri Tawfiq Qurnah
Ahmad Anwar Samir al-Taqi
Husayn Hasan Ghazi al-Turkmani
Samir Muhammad Nafi' Salim
Simon Ibrahim Agop
'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Shami
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Ahmad Muhamad Qazzaq
Ahmad 'Ali 'Idu
Faruq Muhammad Abram
Georgi Musa 'Azar
Firyal Mustafa Satil
Husayn 'Abd-al-Hamid Ka'kah
Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Aqqad
Nadia 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ghazi
Ahmad Muhammad Adib Badr-al-Din Hassun
'Abdallah George Musalli
Muhammad 'Adil Muhammad 'Ali Jamus
Muhammad Salih Muhammad Majid Mallah
Mahmud Muhammad Sha'ban Barri

Districts of Aleppo Governorate Constituency
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad Turtah
'Isa 'Ubayd al-Zamil
'Abd-al-Hayy Sattuf Khalid
Zakariya Yahya Radwan Fakhuri
'Uthman 'Abd-al-Hamid Shaykh Husayn
Muhammad Musa al-Satil
Zakariya Sa'id al-Hasan
Sami Muhammad al-Shihabi
Jasim Husayn al-Ibrahim
Wahid Tahir Abu-Ras
Ahmad Muhammad Khatib
'Abdallah 'Ali Hamrah
'Abdallah Ibrahim Shilash
Muhammad Hasan Nur Junaydan
Husni Jamil Hasan Hajj Hammadi
Dhiyab Hajji Shawwakh al-Mashi
Najib Khashman Basrawi
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Fatinah Jamil Ahmad
Manar Muhammad Nadim Natur
Ahmad Shaykh Sa'id al-Sa'id
Muhammad Muhammad al-Hasan
Tariq Muhammad Qandil
'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Ibqiq
Battal 'Arif Battal
Muhammad 'Ismat Muhammad 'Umar
'Abd-al-Fattah Yunus Makhluf
Fadil Hamid Kinnu
Tariq Jum'ah Mar'i
'Aqil Hammadin al-Ibrahim
'Abd-al-Hamid Khalil al-Ghubari
Muhammad Khalid Ibrahim
Muhammad Ma'mun Hasan Talusan

Hims Governorate Constituency:
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Ibtisam Miflih Razzuq
Muhammad Ghassan Muhammad Khalid al-Siba'i
Khadr Ibrahim al-Na'im
Mustafa Qasim al-'Isi
Taqiyy Muhammad Khalid al-Yunus
'Abd-al-Rahim Fadil Fadil
'Ali Nadhir Bu'ayki
'Abd-al-'Aziz Tirad al-Milhim
Mahmud Fad'us Fad'us
Fu'ad 'Ali Salamih
Taha Muhammad al-Maghrabi
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
'Adnan Basim Khuzam
Salma 'Abdallah 'Ayyash
Matanyus Salim 'Asfurah
Jum'ah Muhammad al-Hammud
Sha'ban Salih Shahin
Muhammad Yasir 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Saqqa
Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Haswah
Ahmad Nazzal al-Shaykh
Tahir Ahmad Ayyub
Ahmad Ibrahim Taraf
Shihadah Kamil Mayhub
Yusuf Mikhael al-Nasir

Hamah Governorate Constituency:
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Amin Nuri Asfar
Jawid Muhammad Salimah
Khalil Ja'far Mahfuz
Jamilah Sam'an Fallahah
Ahmad Muhammad al-Ahmad
Yunus Habib Salami
Husayn Muhammad al-Husayn
Hasan Muhammad Mustafa Hasan
Mustafa 'Ali 'Isa
'Abd-al-Karim Ma'at al-Isma'il
Ibrahim Khalil Khalil
Mustafa 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Rahman
'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Isa Sultan
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Walid Muhammad Raghib Hamdun
Hasan 'Abd-al-Razzaq Sibahi
Ma'mun Nayif al-Jurf
Su'ad Salim Shaykh Bakkur
'Adnan Ahmad Kizawi
Ghassan 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Uthman
Yasin 'Ali Waqqaf
'Abd-al-Qadir Mustafa Mustafa
Ahmad 'Ali al-'Ammuri

Al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate Constituency:
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A)
Hayfa' Mahmud Saqr
Jamilah Ahmad Shurayqi
Rafiq Ayyub Darwish
Tawfiq Husayn Darwish

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'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad Budaywi
Fu'ad Mustafa Mathbut
'Annan Salman Sha'bu
Ibrahim Hanna Luzah
Suhayl Ahmad Shihadah

The Sector of Other Sectors of People (Sector B):
Jamil 'Ali al-Asad
Ahmad Musa Abu-Musa
Muhammad Ahmad Sa'd
Suhayl As'ad Kan'an
Fu'ad 'Ali Zubari
'Umar Mustafa Hazim
Bahjat 'Aziz Sa'd
Fayiz 'Uthman 'Uthman

Idlib Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Secton A):
Jamil Ahmad Lata
'Abd-al-Razzaq Husayn al-Hammu
Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Majid al-Ramadan
'Umar Hasan Hassani
Muhammad Wajih Nazir Duwaydari
'Abd-al-Latif Shakir Shakir
Muhammad Ahmad Usamah Halabi
Khalid 'Abd-al-Latif al-Khadr
Khalidiyah Mahmud Kabtawi
Mahmud Ahamad Haj-Ahmad
Nasr 'Idu al-Yusuf
Ahmad Mustafa Jalal

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Muhamd 'Umar 'Awni Nihad Mushantat
Muhammad Husayn Husayn Lattuf
Bashirah 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamid
'Abd-al-Qadir Ibrahim Jad'an
Muhammad Mustafa Rahhal
Rif'at Mahmud Daqqah

Tartus Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Sulayman Hasan Muhammad
Amal Nizam-al-Din Mirdash
'Abdallah Muhammad Husayn
Muhammad Ghassan Muhammad 'Arif Tayyarah
Yahya Sa'id al-Khaddam
Kharfan Salman al-Hifi

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Nadim 'Abduh al-Kanj
Ramadan 'Ali 'Atiyah
Muhammad Salim Salih
Mahmud 'Ali Yusuf
Nijm-al-Din Husayn Salih
Nazih Hanna Bashshur
Sa'dallah Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim

Al-Raqqah Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Isma'il Husayn al-'Ali
Mustafa Ahmad al-'Ayid
Najwa Faysal al-'Ujayli
Sha'ban Ahmad al-Humud al-Khalaf

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
'Abd-al-Razzaq Mustafa al-Zahir
Ibrahim Muhammad al-'Ajil
Isma'il 'Ubayd 'Abd-al-Ghani
Muhammad Faysal al-Huwaydi

Dayr al-Zawr Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
'Abdallah Hasan al-Sufayf
Zahrah Khalil Jasim
Ahmad Hasan al-Hammad
'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Mardud
'Abd-al-Majid Haji 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Marzuq
Naji 'Abbud al-Shaykh Faris
Faysal Ahmad Bayk al-Shaykh Fayyad al-Nasir
Fatih Kamal al-'Izzawi

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Ahmad al-Haj 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Fayyad
Ahmad Sarhid al-Muhammad
Ramzi Tahir Muhammad Tahir
'Ammash 'Uthman al-Juday'
Khalil 'Abbud al-Hafil
Faysal Khalaf al-Najris

Al-Hasakah Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Yusuf Sulayman Ahmad
Munifih Sa'id Darwish
Hamid Ibrahim al-Jasim
Muhammad Za'al al-'Ali
Mahmud Ahmad al-Hasan
Muhammad Hammadi Haytham al-Duwayhi
Muhammad Faris al-'Abd-al-Rahman
Mahmud Shawwakh al-Busan

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Fawwaz Salih al-Daqquri
Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abdallah
'Abd-al-Ahad Yusuf Safar
Hamad As'ad al-Zahir
Muhammad Ahmad al-Muslat
Zayyah Malak Yaqu Malak Isma'il

Dar'a Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
'Ali Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim
'Awdah Jiris al-Qisis
Ahmad 'Aqil Bahjat al-Hariri
Faruq Qasim al-Hammadi
Yusuf Muhmmad Abu-al-Rumiyah al-Sa'di

The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Mahmud 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Zu'bi
Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Jamil Muharib
Najah Muhammad al-Mahamid
Nabil Ibrahim al-Miqdad
Faruq Mustafa al-Dukhan

Al-Suwayda' Governorate Constituency:

The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
Ghazi Zahir Nawfal
Jamil Hamad al-Faqih

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Ahmad Sulayman al-Sughayir
'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-Atrash
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Rashrash Farhan Falhut
Kamal Hayil 'Amir

Al-Qunaytirah Governorate Constituency:
The Farmers and Workers Sector (Sector A):
'Abd-al-Majid Ahmad al-Fa'uri
Shakib Yusuf Abu-Jabal
Muhyi-al-Din Raja al-'Umar
The Sector of Other Categories of People (Sector B):
Sharaf-al-Din Hamdi Abazah
Khalid Hasan al-'Abud.

Article Two: This decree shall be published and communicated to all those concerned.

[Dated] Damascus on 21/3/1415 hegira, correspondent to 27/8/1994 [passage omitted]

No Accord Before Withdrawal Commitment Viewed

JN2608143894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has become obvious that the path to a just, comprehensive peace—the peace for which Syria is working and is eager to see established—must start with full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle proposed by the administration of Former U.S. President George Bush and later adopted by the Clinton administration.

Everyone now realizes that the issue of the occupied territory is a paramount Syrian concern. It is an issue that cannot be subject to compromise. Having willingly joined the peace process, Syria is not ready to engage in any discussion affecting its sovereignty over its territory and its rights. These have been approved by the United Nations and the international community. Undoubtedly, Israel is in a position to be well aware of this fact. It knows peace is impossible without its full commitment to full withdrawal from the territories it occupied during the June 1967 aggression and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978.

However, the Israeli leaders, who unwillingly joined the peace process, want to persist in their procrastination, stalling, and wasting of time in order to prevent the train of peace from arriving at its last station. To this end, they declare daily that they are unprepared to fully withdraw from occupied Syrian territory. Yet, they realize that Syria will not sign any peace agreement as long as a single inch of its territory is still under occupation.

It is known that if Israel had abided by the relevant international resolutions and explicitly announced its readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories, the region would now be closer to peace. However, all that has happened so far is that Israel has been trying to torpedo the bases of the peace process. It has announced—it announces every day—that it will not withdraw from the Golan and that any withdrawal will be in the Golan, rather than from the Golan as a whole. In this context, Israel's eternal, unchanging flimsy pretext is security. What is unusual about this unsound Israeli logic is that Tel Avi's rulers are demanding the price of peace before paying what they must pay, in accordance with the resolutions issued by the highest international authority and deemed by the international community to be the basis of peace in the Middle East.

They want diplomatic, economic, tourist, and other relations. They want the Arab boycott lifted and the state of belligerency ended with all Arabs, not just with Syria, without announcing their commitment to the principle of full withdrawal in return for a just, comprehensive peace. In other words, they want to jump to conclusions, without meeting the required prerequisites.

Peace cannot be established as long as an iota of the soil of the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' al-Gharbi is still under occupation. Whoever believes that conclusions can be reached before prerequisites are met, or that the Israelis will reap the fruits of peace before they announce their readiness to accept the requirements of peace, must be deluded. Any talk about opening borders, lifting the Arab boycott of Israel, or establishing multifaceted relations before an explicit Israeli announcement of readiness for full withdrawal will not be listened to in Syria, which has proved in word and in deed its commitment to the requirements of peace and proved its readiness to establish such a peace.

On the other hand, Israel's stand is still vague and difficult to understand. If Israel is prepared for the establishment of peace, the road to it is very well known. It must start with the recognition of the international resolutions and its commitment to withdrawal from the occupied territory. Otherwise, everything that Israel says about peace and its eagerness to see it established is nothing but talk aimed at deceiving world public opinion. We do not believe Israel can continue deceiving the world forever.

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Afghanistan

Government Warns of Air Strikes Against Golboddin

LD2908164294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry; date not given]

[Text] During the past two weeks, Golboddin-Dostum's militias have been savagely targeting missiles at the innocent people of Kabul and the crowded parts of Kabul city, hospitals, mosques, schools, markets, and roundabouts. As a result, thousands of people have been either killed or injured, and hundreds of homes, hospitals, pharmacies, and public places and shops have been destroyed.

The Muslim and innocent people of Kabul have gone to the Defense Ministry and other security sources several times and have asked them to attack the gathering places and residential areas of the militias in order to prevent Golboddin's terror and cruelty.

Despite the repeated requests from and pressure by the innocent people of Kabul, the Defense Ministry and the government security sources have avoided targeting the residential areas and gathering places of Golboddin's militias. They hoped that Golboddin's feelings as a human [words indistinct] and avoid killing the innocent people of Kabul. Unfortunately, these hopes did not bear fruit.

Therefore, in order to grant the request by the innocent people of Kabul, the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State is forced to declare: If Golboddin's militias do not stop firing missiles on the residential areas of Kabul and killing of the innocent people, Charasiab's [Hekmatyar's HQ is located there too] bazaar, which is a gathering place of the militias and which is a trade bazaar for the leaders of the militias [and location of Hekmatyar's headquarters]; and other military and residential areas and gathering places of the militias in other regions will come under the air and land bombardment by the Islamic Army of Afghanistan.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 12, Injures 50

LD2908152094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar fired a number of missiles on the Khairkhana region, north of the capital city of Afghanistan, Kabul, today killing at least 12 militarymen [as heard] and wounding more than 50 others.

Forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan are still in control of Kabul, but the opposition forces have razed most of the city to the ground. The fighting so far has claimed 2,000 lives and has left 20,000 injured. In addition, hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes.

Acting Minister of Refugees Meets Iranian Charge

LD2908160594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar, acting minister of returning refugee affairs, met Mr. Bahrami, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Kabul, in Wahedyar's office today. They talked and exchanged views on problems of Afghan refugees in Iran, especially those living in [word indistict] camp and in other parts of Iran.

In addition, in order to resolve the current problems of Afghan refugees in Iran, Mr. Wahedyar called for the resumption of the work of the tripartite commission consisting of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the UN High Commission for Refugees, during the current month [month beginning 23 August]. The commission has been inactive for some time.

Bangladesh

Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim Appointed New Army Chief

BK2808112694 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Major General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim has been appointed as chief of army staff with effect from the 31st of this month. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Defense in Dhaka yesterday, Maj. Gen. Nasim has been promoted to the rank of a lieutenant general with effect from the same date. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Nooruddin Khan, chief of the army staff, on completion of his tenure on the 30th of this month will proceed on normal retirement.

India

Rao: Party Infighting Could Jeopardize Elections

BK2908020294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 25—In a rare show of anger over the on-going feuds in the Pradesh Congress Committees [PCC], Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao today sternly warned the leaders involved in infighting.

He said that if they did not stop the infighting at once, the Congress party could even lose the Assembly elections in 10 States due in November this year.

Realising the danger because of the faction fights in almost all the PCCs, Mr Rao said that the party leaders will lose the confidence of the voters if they continued

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with the internecine squabbles in the PCCs. He urged the MPs to ensure that the bickerings in their respective States were stopped and the party projected a united image before the electorate.

(Mr Rao was addressing the members of the Congress Parliamentary Party on the eve of the conclusion of the monsoon session.)

Incidentally for the first time, the Prime Minister shared his concern with the Congress Parliamentary Party members when he expressed his displeasure at the infighting with leaders of different groups issuing statements and counter-statements, particularly in the Congress-ruled States. He asked the factional leaders to stop this mud-slinging match which was very dangerous for the party. The people would carry the impression that since the State leaders are feuding, their governments would not be able to deliver the goods because of the infighting which is unfortunately based on personality cult, the Prime Minister remarked.

Mr Rao's warning to the State leaders came at a time when the elections in the States are only a few months away. Emphasising that infighting was a major problem at the present juncture, he said it must be stopped forthwith. Open confrontation between the leaders should also end. Otherwise, he said, people would think that there is something wrong in the party.

He regretted that this particular "disease" has of late spread even to the States where the Congress used to be a very disciplined party. "If leaders at the State-level fight among themselves, how could they face the people and ask for votes. The people would ask as to how they could do anything when they were fighting against each [other]", the Prime Minister said.

He wanted the MPs to help in stopping the bickerings in the State units so that the Congress could per form well in the coming elections. "The Government and the party should project a united front and let the people know that even though there are differences in the party the Governments are capable of delivering the goods."

On the question of Assembly elections the Prime Minister said that within the next six months, 10 States would be involved in elections and therefore the first task before the Congress at different levels was to make the electorate concentrate on the issue relevant to them and judge the parties in the elections, rather than getting diverted into issues which are not real but manufactured by some vested interests.

Mr Rao said that MPs should motivate the people to take "performance-oriented decision" while exercising their franchise. They should present to the people a comparative picture of what the Congress Governments achieved and what the Opposition Governments could do.

Editorial Urges Control of Foreign Media

BK2908012394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Alien Media Trap"]

[Text] As if the impact of foreign television networks on the mores and manners of Indian youth were not bad enough, an interested lobby has been assiduously canvassing support to the idea of throwing open the country's doors to foreign print media too. The argument advanced, that it is an inevitable concomitant of the liberalisation process, is as fallacious as it is misleading. For it presupposes that the Press in the country is an industry, which like others, must stand up to international competition to survive in the new market-oriented environment. There cannot be a greater danger to the calling, which, despite all the degeneration that has crept in and the corruption of its ethics, still retains something of its role as a watchdog of the public by purveying the truth sought to be camouflaged by the government-controlled electronic media. Unfortunately, the division among media organisations, individual journalists and newspaper owners on the question of foreign media entry has been seized by the government to set up a Cabinet committee to study the matter. Obviously, the protests and warnings by the country's news organisations and the Press Council itself on the perils of allowing in foreign media have fallen on deaf ears. But the emphatic rejection of the idea by MPs in the Lok Sabha, cutting across party barriers, on the count that it would undermine India's hard-won independence, its integrity and the socio-cultural value system should make the government re-think.

Fortunately, the Cabinet committee is also divided on the issue, with Dr Manmohan Singh and Mr Pranab Mukherjee seeing it as an inescapable fallout of globalisation, while Mr N. K. P. Salve and Mr Arjun Singh want all aspects of the proposal including its implications for the Indian Press discussed threadbare. It is not clear what has prompted the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to endorse the proposal, in a neat reversal of its earlier stand. If it is meant to pave the way for a Doordarshan tie-up with CNN, the Press need not be made the guinea-pig. Nor should the issue be considered in terms of the liberalisation parameters, as the consequences of allowing foreign control of the media go beyond fostering the competitive spirit. Indian society, which is in the process of consolidating its liberation from the colonial yoke, should not be exposed to a destabilising influence of the kind the foreign media could constitute without regard for the preservation of our traditions and cultural values. If foreign media were to be allowed at all, it must be ensured that the control of the media is in Indian hands. The majority share should rest with local owners. Media participation from abroad is not an evil but media ownership by foreigners can be. The Cabinet committee must discuss all aspects of the issue before arriving at any decision.

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Nations Adopt Bangladore Biodiversity Declaration

BK2908020794 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 94 p 7

[Text] Bangalore, Aug. 25—The international consultation on biological diversity which concluded its two-day meet here has declared its resolve to form an "Asian Regional Fund" that would act in unison on issues relating to the use of genetic resources.

The consultation was attended by 11 countries including Afghanistan Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam besides international organisations and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Adopting the 'Bangalore Declaration' on biodiversity, the countries decided to develop regional and national inventories of the components of biological diversity based on survey and identification.

The declaration affirmed the countries' resolve to establish regional linkages of scientific and technological capabilities, and the optimal utilisation of existing institutional infrastructure and networks.

The countries adopted the declaration with the intention to frame common guidelines regarding access to genetic material to interested parties including provisions for a material transfer agreement, sharing of full information as well as mechanism to provide access to technologies and products developed from the transferred genetic material.

Official sources said the linking together of the Asian countries was imperative as this would ensure that the biodiversity convention was successful in the face of challenges from the developed world.

Meanwhile, briefing the Press, Environment Secretary Rajamani said the Indian legislation on protection of indigenous bio-material was almost ready, and a Bill would be introduced in Parliament's next session.

The draft legislation had run into rough weather as it had to encompass complex issues of farmers' rights, technology transfer and intellectual property rights. At least nine expert groups were working on these Issues and a status report on these was being prepared by the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

One of the reasons for the slow progress of the legislation was because extreme caution had to be exercised in framing it and when the Bill was ready it should not "backfire", the Secretary said. An information network would be set up on the existing situation regarding the country's genetic resources.

Liberalizing Pharmaceuticals Viewed as 'Mixed Bag'

BK2908005894 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 25 Aug 94 p 8

[Editorial: "A Mixed Policy"]

[Text] The long-awaited new drug policy now seems on the verge of at last becoming a reality with a meeting on Tuesdaydd)Mr PV Narasimha Rao, clinching most of the crucial aspects on which there had been differences, notably between the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Mr Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, and his junior colleague in the Ministry, Mr Eduardo Faleiro. The fact that the wait may be over is in itself good news. The contents of the new policy, on the other hand, seem a mixed bag and do not seem to justify the delay in finalising the policy. The most vital question involved in the new drug policy in India, where vast segments of the population can scarcely afford even the existing costs of medical treatment, is obviously the issue of drug pricing.

The policy as it has now emerged represents a compromise between the views expressed by Mr Faleiro and Mr Yadav. While the former was of the view that drugs with an annual turnover of Rs 1.5 [rupees] crore or more should be kept under price restrictions, which would have meant that most of the 140-odd drugs now under controls would continue to remain so, Mr Yadav was in favour of fixing the cut-off point at Rs 5 crore, which would have left only a small fraction of them under controls. The line has now been drawn at Rs 4 crore, effectively halving the list of price-controlled drugs. While this may make theoretical sense from the point of view of encouraging investment in the production of those drugs which will be decontrolled previous experience does not bear out such a facile correspondence between decontrol and investment. Decontrol can also be a dangerous move at a time when there are apprehensions of drug prices going up in the future as a result of the new patents regime that would have to be enforced in compliance with the GATT treaty.

Against this, there are some positive aspects to the new policy, perhaps the most significant among them being the creation of a national drug authority under the Health Ministry to keep tabs on quality aspects of drugs. This, if properly used, could indeed serve a useful purpose. The setting up of a separate body for pricing of controlled drugs is also a welcome move, since it should speed up the process of price fixation, which has been rather sluggish under the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. The measures to encourage domestic research and development in pharmaceuticals are also welcome, though whether they would serve the purpose adequately is arguable. Similarly, whether foreign firms would respond to the incentives for them to invest in India also remains to be seen.

Iran

Leaders Address Seminar on Bosnia

Jannati, Velayati, Others Speak

LD2708121594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpts] As you heard in the news bulletin, the seminar entitled Bosnia-Herzegovina: Future Prospects opened

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this morning in Tehran with scholars and researchers from 26 countries attending.

Qorbani, my colleague reports on the seminar:

During the seminar's opening ceremony, Ayatollah Jannati [head of the Islamic Publicity Organization and Khamene'i's envoy on Bosnian affairs] commented on the regrettable status of the Bosnian Muslims by describing the silence in the face of Serb atrocities as a crime never to be forgiven by history and future generations. He said: Today a heart-rending situation dominates the Bosnian Muslims. Massacres; homelessness; the killing of Muslim scholars and intelligentsia; destruction of schools, mosques, and libraries; and constant attacks against Muslims has put them under pressure. Therefore, the convening of such seminars must inform the world Muslims of all that.

The Vali-ye Faqih's [The Supreme Jurisconsult: i.e. Khamene'i], referring to the presence of America and the Zionist regime in the former Yugoslavia region and their extensive support for the Serbs, stressed: The mere convening of seminars and writing of reports and articles will not alleviate any of the problems of the Bosnian people. The publicity organs of Muslims must, beside finding practical solutions, reveal the realities existing in Bosnia that have been concealed by the enemies of Islam.

Announcing Iran's support for the resistance and struggle of the Muslim people of Bosnia, the Vali-ye Faqih's envoy added: If the people of Bosnia had not continued their resistance with reliance on such support, Bosnia would have succumbed to a fate like Palestine.

Condemning the performance of advocates of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said: Those who entered action immediately after the beginning of the Persian Gulf war are right now giving the enemies of Islam in Bosnia a free hand, and through establishing arms embargoes, are deceitfully ignoring the Serbs' atrocities.

Foreign Minister Velayati, in a speech, described the reasons for the crisis in the Balkan region, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: Despite the claims of international mediators, the war in Bosnia is not an internal war but a calculated foreign onslaught that is being prosecuted with the assistance of internal levers and for the purpose of promoting racist objectives.

Referring to the issuing of 105 resolutions and statements on Bosnia-Herzegovina by the UN Security Council, the foreign minister added: What we face is failure to confront the roots of the crisis and a lack of political will by the UN Security Council members to implement of those resolutions completely. Velayati once again stressed Iran's efforts to have its forces participate within the framework of the peacekeeping force in Bosnia and said: Iran has declared at the highest level that supporting Bosnia is its Islamic and ideal duty and the exalted leader personally follows the issue with special interest.

Velayati described the UN Security Council's methods regarding Bosnian-Herzegovina as unsuccessful and, quoting Bosnian President Izetbegovic, said: If it were not for Iran's assistance and support for the Bosnian people today, the fate of the people of that country would have been different, and in future history will make Iran's role more clear. [passage omitted]

Hamid Algabid [secretary general of Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] was the next speaker of this morning's seminar entitled: Bosnia-Hercegovina: Future Prospects. In his speech, he thanked the Iranian Government for organizing this seminar and stressed the need to find a fair solution to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: Tension in the Balkans is not only a cause of concern for the Islamic world; it can also be regarded as a threat to Europe. Therefore, the UN Security Council should accept a fair solution to this problem. Hamid Algabid added: The Serbs' aggression is continuing unabated, and the UN Security Council does not have the ability to force the Serbs to abide by the various resolutions and the UN Charter. He called for an aid package for the people of Bosnia before the onset of the cold season.

The Bosnian foreign minister and the Malaysian deputy foreign minister also spoke to this morning's session of the conference.

Rafsanjani Speaks at Conclusion

LD2808192594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] At a ceremony this evening marking the end of the international seminar on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was held in Tehran as a panorama of the future, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: At a time when so much attention is given to the subject of defending human rights—and even the rights of animals—the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem is unique because of so much tyranny, extreme cruelty, violation of women's and children's rights, and erosion of security.

The president termed the existing crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a stain of shame on mankind's prestige today, and said: The silence of powerful states in the face of the oppression of the Bosnian people and countless crimes of the Serbs is baffling and is shameful for the Western countries and particularly for Europe.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized the double standard approach of the international forums, including the United Nations, in terms of other crises such as Kuwait and Somalia; and by deploring this injustice he referred to the major powers as liars and said: The United Nations must take the Bosnian crisis seriously, and it should allow those countries that wish to implement the

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UN resolutions in this regard to take action so as to resolve this major problem of humanity.

Referring to the might and capabilities of the Islamic world in view of its population and resources, he said: If 1 billion Muslims were to unite and utilize their resources to defend and support the Muslims in several regions of the world, such incidents would be much rarer in the future.

He emphasized: It is in the interest of humanity, Europe, America, and Christianity to end the existing crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to enter into action with any possibility so as to assist the Bosnian Muslims and to resolve the crisis.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Meets With Leaders

Talks to Rafsanjani

LD2808203994 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Mirko Pejanovic, a member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, and Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic were received today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the talks they confirmed the friendship between the two countries and discussed the possibilities of economic cooperation and Iran's assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Minister Ljubijankic also had a meeting with Ayatollah Janatti, the coordinator of activities for assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Janatti expressed satisfaction with the Bosnia-Herzegovina government's stands toward the international community, achieved through consistent policy, readiness to cooperate, and dignity in the defense of its country and rights. [passage omitted]

Meets With Velayati

LD2708105694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic is in Tehran to attend the seminar, Bosnia-Herzegovina: Future Prospects. In a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, Ljubijankic praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative in setting up the seminar and its all-round support for the Bosnian people, and briefed him on the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian foreign minister also called for serious and practical international measures to defend Bosnia's rights.

Mr. Velayati said: The support given by the Islamic Republic of Iran is rooted in the Iranian people's religion and culture, and that support will continue.

During the meeting, the two countries agreed on establishing a joint economic commission or committee.

Mir Kopanovic, a member of the Bosnian Presidential Council, also met Mr. Velayati today. Briefing Mr. Velayati on Bosnian internal developments, he described the assistance given by the Islamic Republic of Iran and other friendly states as the cause of the success and resistance of the Bosnian people, and termed as effective the role of the Islamic Conference Organization and countries like Iran in resolving Bosnia's problems.

Our country's foreign minister referred to the West's negligence in exerting serious pressure on the Serbs, who oppose any peace plan, and called for new international measures against Bosnian Serbs. Mr Velayati stressed Iran's support for Bosnia and its territorial integrity.

In a meeting today between Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and Foreign Minister Velayati, the two discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and convening a future ICO meeting.

Hamid Algabid, who is attending the Bosnia-Herzegovina: Future Prospects seminar in Tehran, described the convening of such a seminar as useful for the future of Bosnia.

Mr. Velayati said: The support given by the ICO to the Bosnian people and the efforts made by the world Muslims to defend Bosnia-Herzegovina have stimulated other states, and the fact that the Bosnian issue has once again united the world of Islam is cause for satisfaction.

Announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness toward finding a solution for the Afghan crisis, Mr. Velayati expressed the hope that peace and tranquillity will be established in Afghanistan as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES: Bosnia Needs Assistance

LD2808121794 Tehran IRNA in English 1149 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, (IRNA)—A morning English daily here Sunday editorialized on the Bosnian crisis and remarked that while the Islamic world was silent on this catastrophe no good could be expected to come from Europe.

The "TEHRAN TIMES" wrote that if the Islamic world kept its lips mum, the Serbs would continue to commit their savage crimes against humanity.

Pointing out that the Bosnian crisis would go on as an unprecedented tragedy of the 20th century, it said that had such a tragedy occurred for Americans or zionists, the world would never stop hearing about it.

"Unfortunately, Europe did not bother with this catastrophe except with empty words and false sympathy."

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Saying that Iran's policy towards the Bosnian conflict was decisive and crystal clear from the very beginning, the editorial added that "the government and the people of the Islamic nation of Iran believe that Bosnia is the frontline of Islam in the heart of Europe. The slightest shortcoming on the part of Muslims would pave the way for a cancerous tumor such as the zionist regime."

On the very outset of the crisis, the daily wrote, the leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, appointed a representative to follow the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iran had provided material aids for the republic while supporting it in an international level. Iran also offered to dispatch 10,000 troops to join the U.N. peacekeeping forces in that country which was rejected by the U.S. and its allies.

The "TEHRAN TIMES" concluded by writing that "we expect the world's conscience to awaken and to do its best to carve a federation which grants 51 percent of the land to the Bosnian Muslims and Croats."

Tehran To Participate in Upcoming ICPD

LD2808131994 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi said here Sunday that Iran will participate in the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) due to be held in Cairo.

He said some terms in the preliminary version of the draft program of action of the conference are implicit and ambiguous and Iran was keen to offer necessary proposals to amend the draft.

Marandi said that Iranian delegation will examine the draft program that differ from the Islamic view on ethical basis.

He said those who have drawn the draft document seemed to have disregarded the religious views of the Islamic world and formulated the text with a sense of sexual liberty, a phenomenon which was prohibited in Islam.

Iran will do its best to adapt the final document to the religious ethics, Marandi said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations information center in Tehran announced today that the draft program of action, which will be debated in Cairo next month, is still being negotiated and all countries would have ample opportunity for input to the final document.

Reacting to press criticisms, it said contrary to the claims in some reports, the draft document does not promote abortion, premarital sexual relations or homosexuality.

Yazdi Views Ties With Argentina

LD2608125694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Remarks by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, from the second Friday prayers sermon in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Argentine incident has become clear to everyone. I have nothing to do with the political aspects of the case, nor with its sociological aspects. Fortunately, all the officials have spoken about this; they have spoken adequately about the political and sociological aspects of this case.

I am taking up another issue: A judge of that country named and accused four of our country's diplomats. He also talked about others, but the laws did not authorize him to name them and said that it depends on the prosecutor-general or the senior judge. The file went to the prosecutor-general and, as we have all heard, it was returned. The prosecutor-general said that because of lack of evidence, the file would be re-examined.

Alright, let us put aside the following political aspects: Were the Argentine judiciary under pressure and were they allowed to make independent judgements? This is what I have to say: Four recognized Iranian diplomats have come to the judiciary of their own country seeking honor and the restitution of their prestige. Based on accepted international laws, this can be addressed and pursued legally.

This is what I have to say to the judge who made those accusations: Regardless of the final outcome of the investigations, you should either send your evidence or compile a statement of defense and send it to us so that we are not forced to use certain other international laws, or trial in absentia, or resort to other means.

In other words, a judge in a corner of the world cannot accuse someone and then say, sorry, I made a mistake and that is the end of it. It is not as simple as that. They must clarify this issue. [passage omitted]

Velayati Outlines Principles of Foreign Policy

LD2808120994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] [Announcer] Today is the fifth day of Government Week and has been designated as the Day of Security and Policy. Our correspondent has therefore prepared a report on the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the last year. We draw your attention to his report:

[Correspondent] The government during the last year undertook a number of constructive steps for the advancement of foreign policy, alongside the progress made in the economy. The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena, explaining our country's principled stances on world developments, and confronting the enemies' propaganda conspiracies against the Islamic revolution were among the activities of the Foreign Ministry during the last year. Concerning the activities of his ministry during the past year, Mr. Velayati said:

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[Begin recording] [Velayati] Stability in foreign policy is clear evidence for the stability and strength of any government. Considering the stability and strength of the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, naturally its foreign policy is stable and reliable for those who count on their relations with us.

The second point: Our foreign policy in the last year had a more regional direction. Our active participation in the Economic Cooperation Organization, our cooperation with the countries of the Caspian Sea, and our active presence in the trilateral meetings between Iran, Turkey, and Syria have been the most important aspects of the regional efforts of our foreign policy.

The other work that continued from previous years in our foreign policy was helping to prepare the grounds for economic cooperation with other countries. The economic cooperation that you see today between us and Central Asia and the Caucasus is as a result of the groundwork carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Our activities in the international arena—in the world of Islam, in the Nonaligned Movement, and in the UN—were outstanding last year. Our presence regarding Bosnia has been very serious. Iran has been very active in the Nonaligned Movement. God willing, our foreign policy will continue next year within this very same clear-cut and accepted framework. [end recording]

Iraqi Espionage Gang Arrested in Kurdestan Province

LD2808170494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Agents of an espionage and bombing network affiliated with the Iraqi regime were identified and arrested in Kurdestan Province. According to a Central News Unit report, the managing director of Kurdestan Province's intelligence department announced: Last month [month ending 22 August] an espionage and bombing network affiliated with the Iraqi regime, which intended to engage in acts of subversion and to plant bombs in our country's sensitive centers, was identified, and its members were arrested, thanks to the cooperation of the Muslim and vigilant people of Kurdestan Province.

During their initial confessions, members of the network confessed to all of their subversive and espionage missions, assigned to them by the Iraqi regime.

Rafsanjani, Khamene'i Addresses Mark Occasions

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Address

LD2608122594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0959 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani introducing the speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i on the occasion of the birthdays of the Prophet Muhammad and Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, and on the occasion of Government and Islamic Unity Weeks at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 26 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] We are aware that today to create disunity between Islamic countries, Islamic peoples, and even between us and non-Islamic countries is on the agenda of our enemies. Recently they have been rash and ignorant and shown their hand, both inside Iran and abroad. The explosion in Argentina was a testing ground, which disgraced America and Israel regarding the Islamic Republic. Today, after the recent pronouncements by the Argentine judiciary, they have gone so far as to blame each other. America says: Argentina made a mistake and drew us into this mess. Argentina says: The Americans tricked us. However, the truth is that because of the enmity they have against us, they lost their balance. They behaved ignorantly.

They attack those with the excuse of terrorism who ... [pauses] today we are marking Government Week for a government that was build around the burned bodies of our president and prime minister [refers to 1981 killing of President Raja'i and Prime Minister Bahonar]. They were killed by foreigners, and that is why we are mourning.

In any case, in this world we are in serious need of unity. The eyes of the Islamic ummah are focused on Iran and on you [Rafsanjani addresses Khamene'i]. Others should benefit from the experiences of our people and ummah. While honoring the memory of our great martyrs, whose blood we have our current position in the world, we are awaiting guidance from your excellency. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Address

LD2608134394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on the occasion of the birthdays of the Prophet Muhammad and Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq, and on the occasion of Government and Islamic Unity Weeks, at the Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 26 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic attaches special significance to the birthday occasion of the esteemed prophet, the start of his prophethood and whatever else that concerns him. This is because today, Islamic Iran is the only location, and the most important place [as heard] in the whole world where Islamic tenents are officially being implemented and laws are being made and executed on the basis of the Koran and the prophetic tradition. We have

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a government here under the name of Islam. This in effect places an obligation upon the shoulders of all world Muslims. This is because if there is a government under the banner of Islam, then Islam is being implemented. However, if there is Islam in a society, that is in term of the belief and practices of members of that society, but there is no sovereignty for religion, then the Koran and Islam are in fact interdicted [mahjur] in such a society. [passage omitted]

In the Islamic Republic the Koran is the basis for the society's general rules. In other words, all aspects of managing the affairs of a society are officially, and not merely nominally, drawn from the Koran. Laws are derived from the Koran, and whatever contradicts Koran is shunned. The state and the political authority is formed on the basis of Koranic criteria, while at the same time the dominant social values are Koranic. Moreover, any committed and devoted person is acceptable in an Islamic society. [sentence as heard]

The reason the people of Iran dearly love their officials is that these officials implement the Koran and have faith in their religion. This a society where Koran is alive and sovereign. This is the Islamic Republic.

It is for this reason that Muslims the world over, who dearly love the Koran and the eminent prophet, feel a commitment toward the Islamic Republic, which is bearing the banner of Koran and Islam.

This is exactly what has caused, and still causes, the violent hostility of the enemies of Islam toward the Islamic Republic. This is the factor responsible for their hostility.

Anyone in the world who opposes the Koran and Islam demonstrates his opposition, hostility, and enmity by clearly opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran. If you look at the world, you will see this is a general criterion. The enemies of Islam, no matter in which part of the world they live, are engaged in a dispute, hostility, and enmity against the Islamic Republic. The more they oppose Islam, the rule of Islam, and the Muslim nations' commitment to Islam, the stronger is their enmity against Islamic Iran. You have seen this all over the world. Fortunately, their enmity is unsuccessful and frustrated.

The arrogant powers are wrong if they think that they can bring the Islamic Republic to its knees the same as any other government by resorting to their normal weapons of propaganda siege, political pressure, economic sanctions, and other means. This is wrong. The issue here is a matter of belief, a matter of commitment to religion and the issue of a divine duty upon the people's shoulder who feel obliged to defend this state and this government, which is carrying the banner of Islam. This is also the duty of Muslims in other parts of the world. That is why the arrogant powers employed all their capabilities against the Islamic Republic from the start of the revolution. They organized opposition, hostility, and various forms of political, economic, and military confrontation against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our dear Imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with his deeds, used to say always that these acts of hostility are not in reality directed against us; they are directed against Islam and the Koran. This is a fact that should be noted by all Muslims of the world.

Those who are observed today to be engaged in a confrontation against the Islamic Republic in the propaganda arena, in the political scene, and in various economic fields are those who have publicized and demonstrated their hostility against Islam. They have nothing to hide. Of course in the past they were careful not to demonstrate their hostility against Islam so openly. Thanks to the advance of the Islamic movement, however, they were forced to expose their nature.

The same incident that led to the creation of a sensation in the world by America and Israel—which is classed as a U.S. government dog pulled by its chain—on the Argentine issue is one example of the hostilities I mentioned. Of course to us such propaganda is neither new nor worthy of considration. The Islamic Republic constantly faced the enemy's hostile propaganda during the life of the Imam, peace be upon him; that is, for 10 years after the revolution. When did they ever leave the Islamic Republic alone, which faced their propaganda under various excuses? Always ultimately the Islamic Republic came out with pride and victorious. This was also true in the last episode. It will always be the same.

The Islamic Republic is not frightened of this propaganda. We are not a kind of government or nation that would be harmed and undermined by the propaganda hue and cry of the world's mercenary press, the Zionist radio stations, and the foul-mouthed American statesmen and others. They have carried so much propaganda against us that we have now become invincible to the blow of propaganda. As far as this aspect of the issue is concerned, we are not bothered.

The world also does not believe this propaganda, except perhaps a number of simple-minded and shallow individuals. So we will not come to harm from this area either. I have heard that even in Argentina the people are themselves unhappy about the weak stance of their government. They say what happened was the work of America and Israel. This was in fact proven to the whole world, which realized that it was in fact their doing and how they then set out on spreading a meaningless and unfounded propaganda campaign. Even the people of Argentina are aware of this. We are not concerned about this aspect either.

However, this whole thing has a very significant dimension for us. The significant aspect for us is that in Islamic Iran and all over the world, the friends of Islam and the Islamic revolution should become aware of how persistent the American ruling apparatus and the arrogant systems the world over must be in their confrontation against the Islamic Iran to find it necessary to resort to

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such meaningless pretexts to be able to wage propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

It is important for us in that it makes it very clear that the Islamic Republic as a political entity—which by reliance on Islam, the Koran and divine blessings stands firms in this part of the world—has such a strong and determining presence concerning the arrogant objectives of America. [Crowd chants: God is greater, Khamene'i is the leader, death to those opposing Velayat-e Faqih, death to America, death to England, death to Saddam and the Monafeqin and death to Israel; all segments of the chant, except to the part about England, are the standard chant called Takbir]

The presence of the Islamic Republic, on a global level, is such an obstacle to their arrogant aims that they want to stand against the Islamic Republic whatever way they can even if it is through such unfounded and weak means, when they cannot find anything else. This is very important. For one thing, their propagandists pretend that the Islamic Republic is weakening. If it was weakening, why do the so-called great powers of the world fear it so much? Why do they try so hard to propagate against the Islamic Republic around the world and in public opinion? This is only because—despite the propaganda—the Islamic Republic has a distinguished place in public opinion, in the Islamic world, and beyond. Furthermore, it is important because it shows how dangerous it is for the arrogant designs that an independent government is unwilling to surrender to the aims of the arrogant powers.

The thing that the world arrogance, led by America, want from the developing and Third World countries is total surrender of their ruling establishments to American policy. This is what they want. If such a government ruled the country they would accept it despite all faults and defects. They would not mention human rights even if this country did not have a pseudo legislature. They would not say: There is no democracy here. They would not say: It is tribal or family rule. They would not say that human rights are trampled on. The measure that they have in mind is the governments' and countries' surrender, allegiance and devotion to America. If this is achieved—from the American statesmen's point of view—that country, government, and officials are an acceptable people, without fault, and with no need for pressure nor propaganda against them. However, if a country has an independent government that relies on the people, which has an independent mind and an independent culture, which measures things against the interests of its people, which chooses its policies according to its own beliefs and not because of pressure from here or there, then such a country would fail in their view. Even if it had the best of democracies, the best of the legislatures, and the best of popular governments, they would accuse it of lacking democracy. This is the state of those establishments, such as the American Government, which claim world leadership today. With such limited vision and such malicious approach to countries and nations are they worthy and do they deserve to lead the world?

According to the world's arrogant powers, the crime of the Islamic Republic is its adherence to Islam, to independence, and to its people's welfare. The key to the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran is this very same thing, my dear brothers. They have not been able to strike a severe blow against us to this day for the very same reason. They put us under pressure, they took malicious steps against us, they harassed us and committed dastardly acts against us. They even organized terrorist acts inside the country. They supported the terrorists against the Islamic Republic with their words, acts, and deeds, and the silence of approval. An incident of that magnitude occurred in Mashhad. Those governments that claim to oppose terrorism did not utter a single word of condemnation. This is how they are. In spite of all this, the Islamic Republic of Iran is marching on its glorious path with pride, strength, and God's blessings. This is the key to our power: relying on Islam. [passage omitted]

The respected deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majlis should make all effort to draw up laws that conform completely with the holy Islamic Shari'ah. That is what will maintain the needs and prosperity of this nation, just as it has up to now.

Praise be to God, the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran are among the most progressive laws and conform the most to Islamic laws. Its economic laws, its penal laws, various laws relating to legal issues and the people's various relations to each other, and every day life are all founded on Islam.

The respected and serving government should make all effort to further revive Islamic values in the community. The highest of the values is the value of piety. Piety is what maintains us in the path of Islam. Piety means to watch ourselves; and it does not belong to a special group, either. Each and everyone, no matter where; every member of every section of the government, from senior members to ordinary civil servants; everyone of the people anywhere in the country must be careful not to stray from the road [jaddeh] of Islam. Islam has promised victory. The Koran has promised progress and success in all the dimensions of life. It will make this life and the next life of the nation prosperous; just as what has been done for people's lives within the short time Islam has ruled in this country bears no comparison with the past. The services that have been rendered to the deprived strata cannot be compared with what was done before the victory of the revolution; despite all the problems that were created for this country. The path of Islam is the path of prosperity. The criterion for knowing whether we are true adherents of Islam is the observance of piety. Anyone can understand, if he applies the criterion in his own actions. Let him watch himself. [passage omitted]

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I ask the state officials to observe the same. The legislative, the judicial, and the executive authorities should do the same. Praise be to God, they are all following the same path. Nowhere else in the world you can find such committed officials, personalities, and responsible authorities with such a degree of piety, so many virtues, and such purity. Thanks be to God, the Islamic Republic enjoys the presence of such officials. They should continue the same path. This is the path of victory.

The enemy has been frustrated in all its adventures against Islam and the Muslims and it is going to be frustrated again, despite all its efforts. [Crowd shouts: God is the greatest, death to counter-revolutionaries, death to America, death to Britain, death to hypocrites, death to Saddam Husayn, death to Israel]

May Almighty God grant us success to continue the bright path of Islam and the Koran and the path of uniting hearts and actions successfully, God willing. May our nation succeed in continuing the best path, that is, the path of Islam which it has chosen. May the nation succeed, with divine assistance, to repulse conspiracies of the enemies. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all. [Crowd chants: O Khamene'i, we are all your soldiers and we await your orders]

Ayatollah Yazdi Discusses Need for Birth Control

LD2608112294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Glorious Friday prayers were held all over the country today on the auspicious birthday of the noble prophet, may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his scion, which also coincides with Unity Week and the blessed birthday of the sixth [Shiite] imam, His Holiness Sadeq, peace be upon him. Ayatollah [Mohammed] Yazdi delivered the prayer sermons in Tehran.

The substitute Friday imam of Tehran, congratulated all Muslims of the world on Unity Week and stressed the need to strengthen unity among Muslims. [passage omitted]

Referring to the clarification of the Argentine issue, the head of the judicial branch said: The reputation of the four Iranian diplomats whose names and titles were published by an Argentine judge must be restored. This is worth investigation and prosecution in accordance with international law.

In his first prayer sermon, the substitute Friday imam of Tehran referred to the public debate on birth control. He said: Sociologists deem the current situation and world conditions to be dangerous. They believe the rate of population growth is catastrophic and the future is bleak. In view of this, the problem of birth control must be pursued with greater care.

Opposition Radio Reports Tabriz Protest, Unrest

NC2808091394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Station commentary: "The Protest Movement Is Proliferating Further"]

[Text] Following protests by the people of Qazvin district some days ago and the declaration of their displeasure with the policies and (?highhandedness) of the clerical regime, the people of Tabriz district staged a massive march last Friday as a sign of protest against the repressive behavior of the regime and its lackeys in this city. During this march and demonstration, in which a few thousand persons participated, the people raised the slogans "Death to the regime" and "Death to Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani," thus manifesting their displeasure at the regime's policies.

It is obvious that the propaganda apparatus of the clerical regime has tried once again to prevent the dissemination of the above report and avoided all mention of it. However, foreign news agencies foiled this attempt by the regime, and even within the country people have informed one another by various means, so that news of the Tabriz residents' discontent has been conveyed to people in other areas.

The demonstration by Tabriz residents is considered a continuation of protests against the clerical regime that have erupted and proliferated in the past year in various districts and cities, indicating the people's mounting hatred and their serious reaction against the inhuman conduct of the regime. Despite this unlimited violence, they wish to drive home to the regime's officials that the people cannot tolerate their misanthropic policies and are prepared to court selflessly all kinds of danger to achieve their liberation and the toppling of the clerical regime.

In fact, the staging of protest actions on such a serious and extensive scale reveals that the fissure between the people and the regime has become wider, and it is anticipated that with the continuation of the regime's discordant policies and behavior, these actions will multiply further, and the declaration of displeasure, collectively and in practice, will mount further. This is especially so since the people of Azerbaijan have been subjected to ethnic tyranny and their most basic rights have been trampled upon. In addition, the regime's repressive policy is being implemented more intensively than before, and its economic program has failed. This has resulted in a pitiful situation for the people.

The people have clearly realized that by exerting pressure on the people, and by increasing taxes and the cost of public services, the regime wishes to compensate for its economic failures. This takes place while the regime continues to equip the armed forces and, by purchasing various armaments and dissipating billions of dollars from our country's treasury, to inflict a new blow on our country's economy daily.

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The proliferation of protest actions and demonstrations—while the serious struggle of the masses in Kordestan and Baluchestan against the clerical regime continues—could play a considerable role in bringing the regime to its knees and placing it in a chaotic and dangerous position. Those forces in the regime that still retain sentiments of patriotism and conciliation should refrain from implementing regime officials' orders to suppress and confront the people. They should rest assured that eventually this regime's existence will come to an end. Our country and its selfless people are moving toward another juncture in their history and, like (?a glorious eagle), they will spread their wings over the firmament of our country.

Therefore, pride and glory will come to those who, more than others, join the ranks of the people and the combatants during the struggle against the dictatorial clerical regime, and who perform their obligations to the people and the country. Those who do not have the courage to do so should at least not become tools in the hands of the regime's officials and should refrain from confronting and suppressing the people.

We hope that the trend of these protest actions and the spread of protests and demonstrations against the regime, its policies, and its (?injustices) will continue and that every day a city or a part of our country will have the honor of carrying out such an obligation. Ultimately, the final blow should be dealt in an all-out uprising and movement against the regime. Thus can we bring the regime's shameful rule and the current disarray to an end. This state of affairs has been imposed on the people by the Islamic Republic and this is what we are now suffering. We await the day of deliverance.

Pakistan

Paper Cautions Against Developing Ties With Iraq

BK2908005194 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Aug 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Think Twice About Pakistan-Iraq Relations"]

[Text] During his recent visit to Pakistan, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf supported Pakistan's national stand on the Kashmir issue and expressed the hope that as a member the UN Security Council Pakistan will help eliminate or relax the sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq. Although Pakistan and Iraq are brotherly Islamic countries, Iraq's Bath Party rulers, however, have never given any importance to their historical and spiritual ties. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have always attached importance to close friendly and brotherly relations with Pakistan. Hundreds of thousand of Pakistanis are earning a living in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, while a negligible number of Pakistanis who were in Iraq returned home during the Kuwait-Iraq war. Their chances of going back there to engage in some financial activities are almost nil.

After the present government assumed office, it indicated its desire to improve relations with Iraq. No one should have any objection to improving ties. However, we should never take any step that amounts to violating the unanimous resolutions of the UN Security Council and offending our friendly Arab countries. At first, the prime minister's husband went to Baghdad on a special mission. Later, a plane carrying people including important government figures was sent. These people were to visit Islamic shrines in Iraq. The United Nations was assured of Pakistan's adherence to the sanctions. However, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait did not like the delegation's visit to Iraq and Pakistanis living in those two countries were ridiculed by their Arab friends. The Iraqi foreign minister is now visiting Pakistan. His meetings with leaders might create misunderstandings.

We should thank Iraq for supporting the Pakistani stand on the Kashmir issue. However, we should not assure Iraq of either the elimination or relaxation of sanctions. Because until the Iraqi leadership proves by action that it realizes its mistake and its neighbors trust it, Pakistani support for elimination or relaxation of sanctions against Iraq might be misinterpreted. Iraq has twice carried out aggression against its neighbors in a span of 10 or 12 years, and President Saddam Husayn is giving the impression that he will regain strength and embark in adventurism again. Therefore, we must assess what are we going to lose or gain before trying to develop ties with such a dubious leadership. After Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Saudi Arabia, it is hoped that the government would not make again any mistake that would be difficult to rectify.

As a member of the Islamic world we are definitely concerned about the difficulties Iraq faces and its people's miseries. However, the Iraqi leadership has itself created these difficulties and it has to take sensible steps to eliminate them. Some of the "important figures" of Pakistan who are looking for prospects in Iraq should not do so at the cost of the country and the nation.

Sri Lanka

Indian Envoy Holds Talks With Kumaratunga

BK2708105194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The Indo-Sri Lankan joint commission is to be activated. The next meetings of the three subcommissions will also be advanced. This was announced by the prime minister's special envoy, Mr. A.N. Verma, in Colombo. Mr. Verma, who is on an official visit to Sri Lanka, held talks with the Sri Lankan prime minister, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga. Sri Lanka has expressed the desire to expand bilateral relations with India for mutual benefit.

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Tamil Tigers Reportedly Agree to Cease-Fire, Talks

BK2908125594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas have agreed to a ceasefire following a peace offer by the new Colombo government, Tamil residents Monday quoted a rebel leader as saying.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) announced they were willing to open unconditional talks with the administration of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga who offered a "hand of friendship" to end ethnic bloodletting.

LTTE idealogue Anton Balasingam told reporters in the island's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula over the weekend that the guerrillas were willing to talk peace but expected "goodwill gestures" from the government.

Premier Kumaratunga assumed office by offering a "hand of friendship" to the LTTE to end the protracted guerrilla war which has claimed over 30,000 lives since 1972.

Tamil residents in the government-controlled northern Vavuniya town said travellers from LTTE-held territory had seen Tiger posters saying that they were prepared for a ceasefire.

Tamil residents said that newspapers in Jaffna had given wide publicity to Balasingam's remarks which marked the first Tiger reaction to the peace offer.

Balasingam had called for the lifting of an economic embargo on the Jaffna peninsula. The new government had unilaterally announced its intention to dismantle the embargo but has not yet done so.

Junior defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told reporters last week that the new People's Alliance (PA) government was keen to restore supplies to Jaffna and that they were prepared to buy the produce of Jaffna farmers.

Defence sources said they expected a firm decision on the embargo at Wednesday's cabinet meeting. The new premier was also due to discuss the matter with military commanders.

The previous government had banned the transport of some 42 items, including sweets, toys, medicines, fertiliser and plastic- ware to rebel-held territory.

Tiger guerrillas have been fighting to establish an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions. Political and military efforts so far have failed to end the fighting.

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